FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 AUGUST 1983

Lebanon

Military Situation — The IDF responded to the wounding of four Israeli soldiers near 'Ammiq by shelling Syrian positions in the Al-Biqa' valley, Jerusalem radio reported. The Israeli action was in line with the IDF's policy of responding to activity by "terrorists" who come from Syrian territory, the radio noted.

McFarlane Mission — U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane discussed the Israeli withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf area with Foreign Minister Elie Salim, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, a Lebanese official cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said there has been no progress in either McFarlane's mission or in the attempt to achieve conciliation among Lebanese parties. A Damascus radio commentary predicted that McFarlane's mission will end in failure no less severe than "the disappointments reaped by Habib, Shultz, and the others who preceded him with U.S. solutions to Israel's security and strategic problems and not to the problems of the Arabs."

PLO Affairs

PFLP-General Command dissidents, aided by Fatah loyalists, captured a base in Tripoli from forces loyal to PFLP-General Command leader Ahmad Jibril, according to Voice of Lebanon and Voice of PLO radios. The dissidents detained the PFLP-General Command official in charge of the northern sector while two other officials fled, WAKH reported. Fatah dissidents and an official in the As-Sa'iqah forces condemned the attack on the camp in statements cited by SANA and Damascus radio.

In Tunis, the PLO Executive Committee called for clearing up the present misunderstanding with Syria and denounced the "campaign of arrests, persecution, and brutal torture" against Palestinians in Lebanese prisons and at Phalangist hands, KUNA reported.

Israel

TAMI Decision on Coalition — Unless the government listens carefully to TAMI's demands and makes "the right decisions," the TAMI Secretariat will recommend that the faction withdraw from the government coalition, Immigrant Absorption Minister Aharon Uzan announced in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. TAMI's withdrawal would lead to the fall of the government, he asserted.

Doe Visit — Prime Minister Menahem Begin met with visiting Liberian President Samuel Doe and expressed gratitude for the latter's "courageous decision" to renew relations with Israel, Jerusalem radio reported.

Libya-Chad

Libyan tank battalions have moved to an advance base 80 km south of Faya-Largeau, the Chadian information minister announced in remarks reported by Paris radio. The minister said 5,000 Libyan soldiers are now massed in northern Chad. The French deterrent force — comprising some 3,000 troops supported by 12 planes — is completely deployed along a defense line that cuts the country in half, the radio added.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces defeated an Iraqi attempt to encroach on Iran's territorial waters, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi troops and capturing a "considerable number" of others along with six speedboats, according to an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. An Iraqi military spokesman, cited by INA, said four Iranian vessels were destroyed and a plane downed on 24 August.

Iran

Unity between the Revolution Guards and the Armed Forces is vital to protect the Iranian people from calamity, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni told army, Air Force, and Navy personnel in a speech broadcast by Tehran radio. He warned that "deviationists" and "dissenters" seek to create a rift between the guards and regular forces in order to gain control of the latter "so that not a single man among you who serves Islam would remain within the ranks." Khomeyni also told his audience to have no doubts that both the United States and the Soviet Union aim to destroy the Islamic Republic.

Pilgrimage Dispute

Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi called pilgrims leaving for Saudi Arabia the "true ambassadors" of the revolution and stressed their "grave" responsibilities toward the hajj at a sendoff ceremony at Mehrabad Airport, Tehran radio reported. Iranian Supervisor of Pilgrim Affairs Musavi Kho'ini told the pilgrims that they should shout "Death to America, death to the Soviet Union and Israel." He also reminded them to observe the regulations set by Iran against taking currency or narcotics with them, the radio added. Those breaking the rules will not be allowed to go to Mecca, the official stated.

Meanwhile, Saudi papers denounced the Iranian call for pilgrims to "exploit" the hajj, according to an SPA press review. The Saudi leadership is able to take "firm action" against anyone trying to obstruct hajj rituals, *Al-Bilad* asserted in the review.

Pakistan

Riots, strikes, and demonstrations continued in the southern province of Sind while political activists in the other three provinces continued their campaign of voluntary arrests to protest the martial law government of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, AFP reported. In his first public reaction to the clashes, President Zia told the Sind High Court annual dinner in Karachi that there is "no cause for anxiety" and he attacked the "diabolic" intentions of those trying to take the law into their own hands on the "pretext" of restoring democracy, AFP added. "So far" the government has been "lenient," Zia stated according to a related Karachi radio report,but those engaged in subversive activities should know that their designs will "never be fulfilled."

Afghanistan

PDPA Central Committee Politburo member Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand left for the USSR to undergo a series of medical tests, BAKHTAR reported.

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'Arafat on Arab Nation's Problems, Dissidents

JN240910 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has described the situation currently facing the Arab nation as bad.

In an interview with *Alif Ba'* published today, 'Arafat said that there is a very serious conspiracy against the Arab nation. He added: I regret to say that some Arab officials are involved in this conspiracy intentionally or unintentionally. I am warning the Arab nation about this conspiracy which is threatening its existence and whose signs are looming on the horizon under the auspices of Israel, the United States, and some agents in the Arab region, with the intention of partitioning Lebanon. He added: From my position and out of my sense of responsibility, I warn the Arab nation that the conspiracy continues, and I say beware — beware.

'Arafat stressed that President Husni Mubarak must assume his historical responsibilities and that the Egyptian people too must shoulder their responsibilities toward civilization. These two responsibilities dictate that President Mubarak adopt some speedy initiatives in the region to eliminate negativeness from Arab relations caused by As-Sadat's actions and the Camp David accords. 'Arafat added: I am not asking President Mubarak for the impossible but for firm and well-planned measures to be taken to reassure the Egyptian people and to increase their enthusiasm in dealing with the dangers that are facing the Arab nation, whether in the occupied territories or the dangers resulting from the war between Iraq and Iran.

'Arafat called on President Mubarak to adopt serious initiatives and to act decisively and quickly, because the time factor runs counter to Arab interests. He must act quickly and decisively because he is the president of the largest Arab country.

On the rallying of some dissident Palestinian factions around the legitimate PLO leadership and more specifically around his leadership, 'Arafat said: The fighters announced that they would have nothing to do with Ahmad Jibril and the others like him because they realized that it is a conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution, and it is impermissible to conspire against the revolution from within. 'Arafat added that some of the forces which are conspiring against the PLO believe that it will be easy to liquidate the PLO with tanks or by a decision issued by one of the intelligence organs.

'Arafat said: The Palestinian revolution is the fruition of the sufferings of our Palestinian people and our Arab nation. That's why we tell those who live on these sick dreams that they are deluded — that no wind can shake the mountain, that the Palestinian revolution is the most noble manifestation in our contemporary history, and that it was established to endure and to triumph. 'Arafat stressed that events have shown that the PLO is being subjected to a conspiracy which comes to complete the war which it had waged alone, supported by the Lebanese nationalist forces and the heroic Lebanese people, in the south and in Beirut. He added that no more than 100 days after the start of the dissident movement it is falling apart and being foiled.

PLO Executive Committee Concludes Tunis Meetings

GF231744 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee today concluded its meetings in Tunis, which were presided over by Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces.

During the meeting, which began the day before yesterday, the committee reviewed the deteriorating situation of the masses of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian camps in Beirut and southern Lebanon, particularly the mass detention campaign and the acts of terrorism and torture to which they are being subjected to in Lebanon. The committee also reviewed the situation of the Palestinian masses in the occupied homeland, and expressed support for their heroic steadfastness vis-a-vis the Zionist terrorism, in addition to the practices of the gangs of surrogate village leagues.

Harassment of Palestinians Denounced

LD231706 Kuwait KUNA in English 1608 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Tunis, Aug 23 (KUNA) — Although no statement was issued at the end of the PLO Executive Committee meetings which came to a close here last night, the two-day meeting under Chairman Yasir 'Arafat denounced "the campaign of arrests, persecution, and brutal torture against Palestinians in Lebanese prisons at the hands of facist elements of the Phalange Party". The committee also held the Lebanese Government responsible, threatening that "the arm of the Palestinian revolution can stretch in spite of all the conditions to strike and retaliate".

An Executive Committee source expressed the PLO's keenness on helping President al-Jumayyil reach national entente and extend government authority over the entire Lebanese territories vacated by Israeli occupation forces, but said that the organization can not remain indifferent regarding repression against Palestinian civilians in Beirut and southern Lebanon at the hands of the authorities and the Phalangists. The source called on the Lebanese Government of Prime Minister Wazzan to honor commitments given to the PLO regarding the treatment of Palestinian civilians living in Lebanon since 1948.

The PLO Executive Committee also adopted measures to bolster Palestinian steadfastness inside the occupied land against Zionist terrorism, and practices of the "lackey village league gangs".

The Committee renewed its call for clearing up the present misunderstanding with Syria, which is "bound to the Palestinian revolution by strategic ties in facing the Zionist enemy," and reiterated that the current dispute within Fatah should be settled through democratic dialogue rather than fighting between comrades in arms.

More on Committee Meetings

JN231825 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee meetings have ended in Tunis under Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces. These meetings discussed several current topics and moves on Arab and international arenas, as well as the impact of these moves on the present and future of the entire Palestine question.

In its meetings, the PLO Executive Committee concentrated in particular on the conditions of our Palestinian people in some Arab countries and inside the occupied homeland. In this regard, it discussed means to bolster the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied territory against Zionist terrorism and the conspiracies concocted by the Zionist occupation authorities to create representation formulas in order to split our people's national unity. The committee also concentrated on the conditions of our Palestinian people in Lebanon, particularly in the areas controlled by the Phalangist militias, the enemy agents of renegade Sa'd Haddad, and the Israeli occupation forces.

The PLO Executive Committee decided to appoint a special committee to make a comprehensive study, to be presented to the Executive Committee during its upcoming sessions, on the conditions, suffering, and problems of our people in all these areas so as to adopt the necessary measures and recommendations. The Executive Committee also discussed the results of the committees' mediation efforts which are now trying to remove tension and end the differences in Syrian-Palestinian relations.

PLO Committee Proposes Provisional Leadership

GF240905 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] Doha, 24 Aug (WAKH) — According to Qatari press reports, the Palestinian dialogue committee formed by the Palestinian Central Committee has proposed in its memorandum to the two disputing parties within the Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah) the formation of a provisional leadership committee from both parties with the aid of Mr Khalid al-Fahum, PNC chairman, in order to settle the dispute through democratic means.

The Qatari newspaper *Al-'Arab* says in a report quoting a responsible Palestinian source in Damascus that the task of the committee will be to lead the movement in all military, organizational, and press affairs, and that its mandate will end with the election of a new Fatah Central Committee by the fifth General Congress, which will be prepared for by the provisional committee.

The source added that the memorandum also includes a call for bolstering the Palestinian-Syrian alliance and reinforcing the alliance with the Lebanese National Salvation Front on the basisof the joint struggle to defeat the occupying Zionist enemy and foil all the imperialist submissive plans, and the continuation of armed struggle as the sole means to regain the rights of the Palestinian people to their national soil.

The source indicated that the committee explained in its memorandum the necessity and importance of adhering to the ceasefire among the brothers-in-arms, stopping propaganda campaigns, and continuing the democratic dialogue in order to bolster the integrity of Fatah and the PLO.

PLO Names Delegation To UN Conference

LD232204 Kuwait KUNA in English 1855 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Tunis, Aug (?23) (KUNA) — The Palestine Liberation Organization (?has formed a) seven-man delegation headed by Director of the Political Department Faruq Qaddumi, to participate in the U.N. conference on Palestine scheduled for August 26 in Geneva.

The delegation also includes member of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant head of the Political Department 'Abd al-Latif Abu Hajlah, and PLO observer to the United Nations Zuhdi at-Tarazai, in addition to the PLO representatives to East Germany, Greece, and Switzerland.

PLO Factions Form Joint Social Organizations

NC201647 Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus, Aug. 20 (AFP) — The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) have formed joint social organizations to complement their political and military command, they said in a joint communique today. The DPLP, led by Nayif Hawatimah, and the PFLP of George Habash, both factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization, merged their command structures on June 25.

Sources close to the two Palestinian organizations said: "These organizational steps, designed to increase joint action on the road to unification," set up unified management of women, youth, and student groups, as well as other mass organizations of the DFLP and the PFLP.

The communique said the newest merger move was made yesterday. It added that the joint command was committed to "the unity of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the independence of its institutions, and the struggle towards the realization of democratic reform." It said Palestinians must talk with each other and not have recourse to arms in the internecine fighting among opposing rival factions within Fatah, the main PLO group.

Fatah Said Ready for Fifth General Congress

JN231927 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahamn has announced that in view of the results of dialogue, the Fatah movement emphasizes its readiness to hold the movement's fifth general congress.

However, he added, the dissidents' insistence on the formation of

an emergency committee as an alternative to the legitimate institutions reveals their continued attempts to split the movement and incite internal discord and fratricide.

Fatah Rebel Al-Labadi Interviewed on Movement
JN191912 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1724 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Interview with Mahmud al-Labadi, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's former official spokesman, by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Louis Faris in Damascus on 18 August 1983 — recorded]

[Text] [Faris] Brother Mahmud al-Labadi: You were Yasir 'Arafat's official spokesman for 7 or 8 years, and now you have joined the dissident movement. Why?

[Al-Labadi] First of all, this is not a dissident movement but an uprising to rectify the course of the political, organizational, financial, and ethical line within the Fatah movement. Therefore, we deny being dissidents.

I have personally joined [this movement] because we are strugglers acting upon our convicti[illegible] When my convictions regarding the side with which I am wo[illegible]g are shaken, I cannot continue, because we are not employees, but revolutionaries. My permanent target is to be loyal to my principles and to the aims for which I worked right from the beginning. This was what made me call loudly for the rectification of the march. I am not a dissident because I am from Fatah, and will remain so. It is not easy for someone who spent 17 or 18 years as amember of a movement to give up a large asset and a long struggle waged throughout one's life.

[Faris] What is the situation now? I am specifically talking about fratricide.

[Al-Labadi] In fact, the story of fratricide is being exaggerated because the other side has always claimed that it is the uprising which began fratricide. Actually, it is they who began it. They began cutting off the supplies, allocations, and gasoline. Therefore, there had to be a reply. If we are forced to fight, we fight only in self-defense and not to attack, because we are eager to safeguard the Palestinian blood. We love the Palestinian fighter whether he joins this or that side, or any other Palestinian organization. Accordingly, we are not seeking fratricide. They began speaking of fratricide for the simple reason that they wanted to stop sympathy with the uprising. Many fighters have joined the uprising movement and they want to stop this transfer from their arena to our arena by the fratricide which they began, and which they are continuously instigating.

[Faris] But the forces of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] attacked the pro-'Arafat forces and occupied some of their centers.

[Al-Labadi] This has actually taken place. But how? They attacked or stood against any group of fighters who intended to join the uprising. This was the case with the September Martyrs' Battalion, when they employed weapons against it to prevent it from joining in. Consequently, such acts would be dealt with in the same manner because we seek democratic dialogue.

[Faris] You say that you want a democratic dialogue. Does this mean that you are ready to talk face to face with Abu 'Ammar?

[Al-Labadi] In fact we are not against any person, but we have demands. We asked that our demands be met in the field.

[Faris] What are your most important demands?

[Al-Labadi] We demand the expulsion, punishment, and trial of mercenaries, deviationists, thieves, and cowards. All those who did not fight bravely or turned into rich people and millionaries should be dismissed from this movement. These are basic demands. There are also the political deviations, concerning which we have called for a political declaration before we embark on any talks.

[Faris] What are the most important political demands?

[Al-Labadi] We have announced that we are against Camp David and against a confederation. We have also announced that we are for the continuation of armed struggle against the Zionist occupation.

[Faris] As far as I know, Abu 'Ammar is also against Camp David and he did not carry on with the confederation to the end.

[Al-Labadi] He did not because he was stopped. The public opinion is against a confederation due to the enlightenment of the Fatah leadership. He was planning to continue his march, but was stopped by the Fatah leadership.

[Faris] What is the truth about your relations or connections with Syria or Libya?

[Al-Labadi] I would like to tell you that we regard Syria as a geopolitical country. Another matter is that one does not choose his brother. You may choose your friend, but not your brother. Syria is a fraternal country. We cannot say we want or do not want Syria. Syria is adjacent to Palestine. Tunisia is thousands of miles away from Palestine, while Syria is the country where one can start off and on which he can pin great hopes. Syria as well as the brothers in Libya, Aden, Iran, and all honorable people in this world support this uprising because its demands are just.

[Faris] Do you receive arms or money from Syria or Libya?

[Al-Labadi] Until now we have relied on our own depots; the Fatah depots. The Libyan brothers are ready to offer any help, but we have not asked for their help because we do not need it at present. Thank God, Fatah had full depots and we are using them.

[Faris] You participated in the talks that took place in Aden and Tripoli. What are the most important results of these talks?

[Al-Labadi] In fact, everyone understands the demands of this uprising. The uprising expresses the conscience of every honest

and free man. The brothers in the PDRY understand our demands, and the brothers in Tripoli support and sympathize with these just demands. I do not believe that there is any honest man who opposes the corrective demands and the attempts to eliminate the deviations within the Fatah movement. Certainly we have sought to extend our circle of contacts so that we would not be described as being isolated. Many Arab countries, which have not yet announced their sympathy with us, strongly sympathize with us. We will continue on this road, God willing.

[Faris] Yesterday, when Abu 'Ammar arrived in Kuwait,he said that his problem is with Syria and not with you. He said that when his problem with Syria is over, the problem with you will end automatically. What is your reply to this?

[Al-Labadi] In fact, Israel also used to say that its problem was not with the Palestinians but with the Arab regimes or countries. Here, Abu 'Ammar says that his problem is not with the Fatah leadership but with the Arab regimes. I would like to say that there is no smoke without fire. The disease and the fault are essentially within Fatah. The fault is essentially in the method which was adopted for more than 10 years. This method compounded the mistakes which led to this explosion and this current uprising.

We say that we would like him to reconcile with Syria. We do not oppose his reconciliation with Syria, but this would not solve for him the problem within Fatah. He demands a conference. Let him hold a conference and we will seek arbitration if he wants to. However, he does not want this. He wants to say: My problem is with Syria, and I do not have an internal problem. My problem is with Libya. That is fair enough. However, these two countries andperhaps other Arab countries may sympathize with this uprising, but this does not mean that he does not have an internal problem. This is an old blunt method. Who would believe that there are no problems within Fatah?

[Faris] Do you mean that Abu 'Ammar refuses to hold a dialogue with you?

[Al-Labadi] Abu 'Ammar refuses because he wants us to kiss each other and go back to live under the deviant method. We say no to him. We say to him first reform, and then we will be willing to live with you. We are not against you personally or against any honest official in this movement. If someone surrounds himself with people who are known to be rotten then we cannot possibly accept such symbols. I mean that it is time to correct the deviation.

[Faris] Is it true that during the internecine fighting which flared at this or that stage, Syrian, pro-Syrian As-Sa'iqah, Libyan, pro-Libyan, or Ahmad Jibril's forces fought alongside you?

[Al-Labadi] Regarding the question of whether Syrian forces fought alongside us — in fact, we did not need them. We have strong young men who have the conviction and incentive to defend themselves because they are defending a just cause and they want reforms. I say to you, quite frankly, no Palestinian militaryman or fighter would accept his commander if he was a coward. Therefore, he has the incentive to reject and fight this coward who has been imposed on him by the leadership. It is not true that the Syrians or the Libyans are fighting alongside us. Perhaps there are a few Libyans in Al-Biqa', but this does not mean that they are fighting alongside us. Regarding the Jibril and As-Sa'iqah forces, I tell you quite frankly all of them are adopting a neutral stand and do not want to become involved. There might have been occasions when they came under fire in some positions and they were forced to return the fire. However, in fact these forces were not directly involved.

[Faris] What then was the role of the Syrian forces?

[Al-Labadi] The Syrian forces adopted a neutral stand in one form or another. Abu 'Ammar accuses them and demands that these Syrian forces reinforce his positions in Al-Biqa' and kill his opponents. Of course, the Syrians were not concerned with striking at his opponents and actually adopted a neutral stand. This is confirmed by the fact that the forces of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] are in Al-Biqa' and no one is attacking them, which means that the Syrian forces are not striking at them. The forces of the uprising are also present in Al-Biqa' and no one is attacking them. Abu Jihad's forces are also stationed in the north within sight of the Syrians. Abu Jihad's forces bring arms from Tripoli to Al-Biqa' and the Syrians see that too. This confirms that the Syrians in one form or another are adopting a neutral stand.

[Faris] Let us talk about mediations. During the past few hours you met with the committee formed by the PLO Central Committee, and in the past few weeks you have met with the committee led by Khalid al-Fahum. What are the most important results of these mediation efforts?

[Al-Labadi] We can say that mediators come and go. We brief them on our problems and situations in the Fatah movement very frankly. We have so far felt their complete sympathy with our demands. All the mediators who came told us that our demands are just. Of course, some of them said that they are against fratricide.

Yesterday's talks with the 18-member committee, which was formed by the PLO Central Committee, centered on fratricide. They thought that we began fratricide and that we wanted fratricide. Frankly speaking, we do not want fratricide. Brother Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] told them: I will not fight except in self-defense. Brother Abu Musa told them the same thing. This is correct because during the past 2 or 3 weeks' tranquillity, scores of young men joined [the dissidents].They joined in through dialogue. We do not have to tell the honorable fighter this is right and that is wrong. He can see for himself.

As I have already said it is they who began the fratricide in order to stop the transfer of fighters from their side to our side. We explained this to the delegation which came yesterday. We also briefed them on our conditions and the reforms we called for. Imagine that 3 and 1/2 months after the uprising — that is, this crisis within Fatah — Abu 'Ammar has not taken any reform measures. He has not dismissed any rotten leaders. All are still in their positions. Who then does not want a solution? It is he who does not want it. Nevertheless, he says that his differences are with the Syrians. Who believes such talk?

[Faris] You have announced that you support the Lebanese National Salvation Front. Are you considering the establishment of certain alliances with some Lebanese forces?

[Al-Labadi] We have lived in Lebanon for a long time. Lebanon has become something which moves our emotions and feelings because there has been love and familiarity for a long time. We support the National Salvation Front as long as its aims are honorable and seeking to resist occupation. We cannot but sympathize with any person who resists occupation because we have been suffering from a 35-year occupation of our homeland, Palestine. Therefore, how can we not sympathize with them? We support and sympathize with them. We are ready to sacrifice our souls for them. We are ready to help them whenever they wish. As long as the matter is that of struggle against the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, we fully support them.

[Faris] They [not further identified] have asked you to leave the villages and cities and to remove the armed manifestations. Has this influenced anything?

[Al-Labadi] No. In fact, this does not apply to us because our forces are outside this [as heard]. Brother Abu Jihad's forces are now present in Ba'labakk and they asked for their evacuation. Brother Abu Jihad's forces are still in Ba'labakk and, God willing, they will leave. We have nothing to do with cities. The one who wants to fight goes to the mountains and elsewhere.

[Faris] You mean that you have no military presence in the cities and villages or in Ba'labakk.

[Al-Labadi] If there is such a presence it is a thin presence, but not in Ba'labakk. We are always seeking to live a life of austerity — the life of revolutionaries, and not that of luxury and cities. We know how much the city spoils the fighting person. We seek the good opinion of our kinfolk in the occupied territory, the refugee camps in Lebanon, and any other area in Jordan or any other place where there are Palestinian groups.

[Faris] Brother Mahmud al-Labadi, my last question is: What developments or events do you expect in the foreseeable future?

[Al-Labadi] In fact, it is difficult to predict what is going to happen. However, we can say that our uprising has become a sweeping current in the Fatah movement. It is solidifying the situation. It is giving the young fighters confidence that there is hope in fighting. It is telling them that they are not staying for only 2 or 3 days before they are ordered to withdraw from the Al-Biqa'.

We have the spirit of defying the Zionist occupation and confronting the submitted plans. America submitted the Rogers and Reagan plans, as well as plans on autonomy and confederation. We will confront all these imaginary plans. They want us to agree to any confederation from which we will only get a piece of land because Israel will not withdraw. They want to rob us of every Palestinian card, while Israel does not show any intention of withdrawing. It is daily establishing new settlements. The one who establishes settlements cannot be planning to withdraw. Accordingly, there are imaginary plans which America submits to strike at the Palestinian ranks and unity. Unfortunately, our leaders ran after the U.S. solutions, imagining that they might get a piece of land. It has been confirmed after 10 years of U.S. plans that all these plans are imaginary.

[Faris] Since you are committed to the Fatah unity, what are the chances of a reconciliation between you and Abu 'Ammar? Do you think this is possible?

[Al-Labadi] Of course this is possible. Reconciliation is possible if demands are met. These are just demands with which all, whether here or there, sympathize. Let him fulfill these demands —or part of them — so that we can believe that he intends to reform. However, as I have told you, 3 and 1/2 months after the uprising he displays no intention of carrying out reform. He always throws the ball into the Syrian court — blaming Syria, Libya, or others and claiming that he is not at fault. He also says that the Fatah movement has no problems and that everything is all right. This is the logic he is using — a logic which can no longer convince anyone.

Violent Palestinian Clashes Reported in Al-Biqa'

NC231554 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Violent clashes have been taking place since 1630 today between the Palestinians in the areas of the onion factory [Al-Basal], Darzaynun crossroads, (Tal Sharhun), Barr Ilyas, and Ta'nayil in the Al-Biqa'. Various types of artillery and rocket weapons are being used in the clashes.

According to the latest report we received from our correspondent in the north, dissidents from the command of Ahmad Jibril [leader of the PFLP-GC] have taken control of the main command headquarters in the Al-Baddawi camp and four other positions after a violent battle in which various types of weapons were used. The clashes stopped at 1430 today. Our correspondent said that about 15 persons were killed or wounded in the clashes.

PFLP-GC Dissidents Capture Al-Baddawi Base

JN231835 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Dissidents of the PFLP-GC today captured a base for the front in the Al-Baddawi [refugee] camp in northern Tripoli. We would like to point out that scores of PFLP-GC fighters, led by Abu Jabir Mahmud, declared last week their dissidence from agent Ahmad Jibril's leadership due to his connection with some regimes.

They affirmed support for Brother commander Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces.

Fatah Opposition Condemns Attack

JN231946 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus, 23 Aug [Sana] — The Fatah opposition leadership has condemned the recent attack by armed men led by

Khalil al-Wazir on military training bases belonging to a Palestinian organization in the Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps in Tripoli, during which many shells were used in Palestinian residential quarters in an attempt to control the camps.

A statement issued by the Fatah opposition leadership today condemned the attempts to incite fratricide, especially after the efforts exerted by the PLO Central Committee to end fratricide and embark on democratic dialogue within the Fatah movement.

As-Sa'iqah Condemns Attack

JN232117 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus — An official in the Popular Liberation War Vanguards Organization — the As-Sa'iqah forces — has made the following statement:

The results of the work of the six-member committee and the delegation entrusted by the PLO Central Committee to resolve differences within the Fatah movement have created an atmosphere of general satisfaction both on the level of the Palestinian resistance movement and on the level of the Palestinian masses. This has occurred because the delegation has been able through its moves and intensive contacts with all parties to define correct frameworks for dealing with the internecine Fatah crisis.

Despite this, we were surprised by statements issued by the 'Arafat leadership in which it said that the mission of the PNC delegation had failed to end the crisis. Following this, security group 17 — which belongs to Khalil al-Wazir — stormed the headquarters of the PFLP-GC in Tripoli, captured the headquarters, and shed innocent blood. This incident coincided with the meeting of the PLO Executive Committee in Tunis in order to give pretexts and justifications for the failure of the six-member committee and the PNC delegation in an attempt by the 'Arafat leadership to foil all efforts to end the internecine Fatah crisis and to generalize the Palestinian crisis.

We in the As-Sa'iqah forces condemn such actions, which will harm the Palestinian struggle and further complicate the internecine Fatah crisis. We reiterate our full support for the efforts being exerted by the six-member committee and the PNC delegation to resolve the crisis. We also ask for a halt in the use of arms, a halt to the shedding ofinnocent blood, and a resort to democratic dialogue. We also demand that all parties comply with the framework and general principles which the six-member committee and the PNC delegation defined.

Joint Forces Operations Against Israelis Reported

JN231856 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces are escalating their commando operations against the positions and patrols of the Zionist invasion forces in several areas of occupied Lebanon.

Within this framework, a unit of the joint forces set off explosive charges by remote control when a Zionist military patrol was passing on the main road in the 'Amiq area in Al-Biqa'. The explosion destroyed one of the patrol's vehicles, killing or injuring all its passengers. A Zionist spokesman acknowledged the operation and claimed that only four Zionist soldiers were injured by the explosion. The spokesman also acknowledged the destruction of a military vehicle.

Arab League's Klibi, Bulgaria's Zhivkov Meet

PM231028 Tunis L'Action in French 21 Aug 83 p 4

[TAP dispatch: "The Palestinian Problem and Israel's Aggressive Practices"]

[Text]Sofia — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi held a meeting in Varna on Friday evening with Bulgarian head of state Todor Zhivkov. The talks, which lasted 2 hours, related to the Palestinian problem and to Israel's aggressive practices in the region, and to the problem of the Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories, according to a source close to the Arab League.

According to the same source, the talks also related to the support given by the Bulgarian people and government to just causes,and their readiness to strengthen ties of cooperation with the league's member countries in all spheres.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Ministers Discuss Iran-Iraq, Lebanese Crises

LD231210 Kuwait KUNA in English 1003 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] At-Ta'if, Aug 23 (KUNA) — The Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council resumes its eighth quarterly session here Tuesday amid signs that the two-year-old council's economic and political coordination efforts are beginning to come to fruition.

The GCC Council groups the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman, who are joined in the current session by their governments' finance and economy ministers.

The addition is an indication that the numerous joint economic projects envisaged by the council, involving trade barrier removals, the establishment of joint stock companies, lifting of currency restrictions, unifying industrial law and coordinating economic policy and banking and investment procedures, have passed the preliminary study stage and are nearing the initial phases of implementation.

But the meeting also comes at a time when foreign policy issues figure prominently in the region's concerns. Uppermost in the minds of GCC members is the three-year-old Iran-Iraq war with its adverse military, political, economic and environmental effects on member states.

Fears of an escalation of the conflict, embodied in a spate of Iraqi, Irani and American threats and counter-threats, are thought by observers to have focussed the GCC foreign ministers' attention on the need to reactivate the GCC-sponsored Kuwaiti-UAE peace initiative launched earlier in the year.

In remarks delivered at Monday's opening meeting, chairman of the current session, Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak, told delegates "The GCC's role in reducing tension in the region" was a top priority.

Gulf participation in solving the Lebanese crisis is also of immediate concern, with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia taking an active role in mediation efforts on behalf of the region.

The dispute within the mainstream Palestinian Fatah movement, as well as differences between the Fatah leadership and the Syrian Government were also quoted by GCC General-Secretariat sources as items on the foreign ministers' agenda.

The GCC Council finalized its agenda in a closed meeting Monday held after Shaykh Muhammad's opening statements, attended by delegation members only.

The council's Secretary-General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bishara later told reporters that the economic coordination measures envisaged by the ministers would allow the proposed "Gulf common market" to become operational by 1990.

The current ministerial session is particularly important as it is also, in effect, a preparatory conference for the GCC summit scheduled for November in the Qatari capital of Doha, described by the country's Finance Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifa as "crucial" for the region's future.

Meanwhile, papers in Gulf states Tuesday were placing great hopes on the outcome of the At-Ta'if meeting.

The Abu Dhabi daily *Al-Bayan* praised the fact that economic issues and foreign affairs were being discussed simultaneously and called for future ministerial council meetings to be joined by the six member-states' defense ministers.

Qatar's *Ar-Rayah* added that the current session was a clear indication that the immense potentialities and resources of the Gulf region were well on the way towards being fully mobilized in the common interest.

Kuwaiti dailies also endorsed the meeting, giving wide coverage of the issues to be discussed and pre-departure statements made Monday by the Kuwaiti delegation under Deputy Premier Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Second Work Session Concludes

GF231410 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The GCC Ministerial Council concluded today the second work session of its eighth session, with the participation of the GCC finance ministers. The council will resume its meeting later today to discuss a number of proposed political and economic issues of mutual interest.

Following the conclusion of the session, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign affairs minister and chairman of the current session, said that during this session, discussion of various economic issues had been concluded and that a statement will be issued on the results of this discussion at the conclusion of this council session, while pointing out that political issues have not yet been discussed and that the upcoming sessions will focus on them.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah said that during the work session a detailed discussion was held by all sides concerned about the implementation of the economic agreement. From the experience gained, it has become clear that some points should be reconsidered. He said that discussion of it was concluded during this work session.

The foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal hosted a lunch today in honor of the foreign and finance ministers who are participating in the eighth session of the GCC Ministerial Council.

Third Work Session Concludes

GF232000 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The GCC Ministerial Council has concluded its third session which was held today. The council session will resume tomorrow, Wednesday.

Bahraini foreign affairs minister and chairman of the current GCC session noted that during this session, the current political situation in the Gulf region in particular and the situation in the Middle East in general were reviewed. He added that views were exchanged among the members of the council on these matters whose discussion will continue in the session which will be held tomorrow in order to crystallize the discussed views. He also pointed out that all the current issues were discussed during today's session, including the issue of navigation in the Arabian Gulf region, the Lebanese issue, and various political issues of concern to the region.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah also noted that the conference will issue resolutions that deal with the various issues which were discussed during its meeting in its final session.

The GCC Ministerial Council concluded in its second session which was held earlier today the discussion on the unified economic agreement.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Congratulates Romanian President

GF231354 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has sent a congratulatory cable to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu on his country's national day.

In his cable, his majesty the king extended his warm greetings and wished the Romanian president good health and happiness and the friendly Romanian people progress and success.

Djibouti Minister:—Relations 'Strong, Close'

LD231522 Riyadh SPA in English 1219 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Jidda, Aug 23, 7spa — Djibouti Foreign Affairs Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah has described his country's relations with the Kingdom as "strong and close."

At a press conference here today, Farah said his current visit to the Kingdom was within the context of consultations between the two countries on issues of mutual concern.

The Djibouti foreign minister added that talks with his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal had covered the current Arab situation, the Horn of Africa and existing bilateral relations.

Farah expressed his country's appreciation of the Kingdom's role both at regional and international levels and its good offices to "heal Arab rifts and achieve unity among Arabs for the liberation of holy places."

He thanked the Kingdom for its constant assistance to his country and noted that the Kingdom has granted Djibouti 60 million dollars for the construction of mosques and schools in the country and electrification projects.

Minister Departs 23 August

LD231652 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1540 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Jidda, 23 Aug (SPA) — Djibouti Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon and an accompanying delegation this afternoon left Jidda after a visit to the Kingdom, during which he handed a message to His Majesty King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-Aziz from President of the Republic of Djibouti Hassan Gouled.

He also had talks with Saudi officials during the visit. He was seen off at the airport by a representative from the Foreign Ministry and by Djibouti's ambassador to Saudia Arabia.

Editorials Accuse Iran of Exploiting Pilgrimage

LD231715 Riyadh SPA in English 1211 GMT 23 Aug 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, Aug 23, SPA — Saudi newspapers in their editorial comments today vehemently criticised Iranian regime's call to Iranian pilgrims to exploit pilgrimage season for political campaign.

Al-Bilad said "irresponsible" behaviour of Iranian leaders was totally in contravention of Islamic Sharia's teaching and proved Iran's intentions to "spoil this Islamic occasion." The paper said the Saudi leadership was able to "confront anyone who tries to exploit this occasion for political activities and take firm action against those who will try to obstruct hajj rituals or harass pilgrims."

It hailed efforts made by the Kingdom to "ensure maximum comfort and security to pilgrims during this period of the year."

Another paper *Al-Yawm* said as usual the Iranian regime was trying to "divert the attention away from the deteriorating situation in the country."

The paper said it was obvious that the Iranian regime would try to "exploit hajj season for sowing seeds of dissension among Moslems and distracting pilgrims from the purpose for which they have come.

"In light of current deteriorating domestic situation in Iran and Iranian leaders failure to export their model of revolution to neighbouring states the Iranian regime will commit more foolish acts and will try to slander their neighbours," the paper added.

The paper said pilgrimage rituals were clear and there was no palce whatsoever among them for heresies of Iranian leaders.

Meanwhile *Al-Madinah* said the grand mosque in Mecca and the Prophet's (peace be upon him) Mosque in Medina were not proper places for the Iranian leaders and pilgrims practises because pilgrimage was a big Islamic gathering for all Moslems to pray to God and to perform this great duty.

It hoped that hajj season this time would be a success free of all earthly goals.

UAE

President Endorses Gulf Investment Agreement

GF231950 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug. 23 (WAKH) — UAE president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has issued a federal degree endorsing the agreement setting up the Gulf investment authority.

The $2.1 billion authority is jointly shared by the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman — members in the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

The Ministry of State for Supreme Council Affairs today sent the approval documents to the Federal Cabinet and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Industry to complete necessary steps before submitting them to the Riyadh-based GCC Secretariat General.

The Cabinet has recently approved payment of the first instalment of $70 million of the UAE share of $350 million. According to the agreement, the other instalments are to be paid within the next four years.

The Kuwait-based authority, approved at the council's summit meeting in November last year, is aimed at developing the economic and financial resources in the six member-states through investment in various projects in and outside the Gulf.

YAR

Health Minister Returns From Visit to USSR

GF231414 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] San'a', 23 Aug (WAKH) — YAR Health Minister Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Kibab returned to San'a' today after concluding a 7-day official visit to the Soviet Union.

During the visit, the Yemeni minister delivered a message from Yemeni President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Soviet President Yuriy Andropov, dealing with bilateral relations and means of strengthening them, in addition to the situation in the Arab arena.

The minister also held talks with his Soviet counterpart and with the chairman of the Soviet Red Cross and Crescent associations. He discussed with them the various means of enhancing cooperation between the two countries in the health field.

President Congratulates Romanian Counterpart

GF231952 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has sent a congratulatory cable to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu on the anniversary of his country's National Day.

ASH-SHA'B Critical of Bright Star Maneuvers

PM230905 Cairo Ash-Sha'b in Arabic 16 Aug 83 pp 1, 19

[Unattributed report: "Biggest U.S. Military Concentration in U.S. Joint Exercises in Egypt; Joint U.S. Exercises in Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, and Oman"]

[Excerpts] U.S. military exercises in Egypt have begun as part of the major maneuver codenamed "Bright Star," which is being held in an extensive field of operations covering Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, and Oman.

The date of the start of the maneuvers — which are taking place in the western desert and involve 5,500 American soldiers — coincides with the announcement of a state of alert in the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean, whose units are massing off the Libyan coast in the hope of provoking Libya and starting a battle that would justify an invasion. *Ash-sha'b* has learned that the 6th Fleet units in the operations area include 30 naval vessels, including aircraft carriers with 200 aircraft on board.

At the southern and eastern tips of the area of the maneuvers there is the U.S. 7th Fleet in the Indian Ocean, which includes another aircraft carrier.

Ash-Sha'b has also learned that in the days preceding these exercises Egyptian airspace witnessed heavy air traffic. Some 15 U.S. heavy military transport aircraft were daily landing U.S. troops with the equipment which they will use in the Egyptian part of the U.S. maneuvers. The U.S. cargo ship *(Claham)* unloaded heavy weapons in Alexandria for use in the maneuvers.

Two U.S. AWACS planes have been stationed in Sudan for long-distance observation. This is in addition to escort planes of both interceptor and fighter types. There are, of course, other planes for refuelling.

The concentration of these aircraft in Sudan took place several days before the maneuvers, allegedly in order to observe Libyan air activities against Chad.

U.S. AWACS planes were also sent to Egypt 1 week before the beginning of the maneuvers for the same alleged reason, despite the fact that nobody could then claim that Libyan planes had bombed Chad.

These maneuvers coincide with the U.S. Administration's feverish efforts to involve a number of countries neighboring Chad and France in the Chadian internal conflict and with the agreement by these countries to intervene directly and openly. Thus the United States finds an opportunity to strike hard at the Libyan regime, which is hostile to the U.S. interests and colonialist policy.

The maneuvers on the Sudanese borders will be an exercise in smashing coups d'etat and resisting mutineers. On the Somali field there will be rehearsals of an amphibious landing, and in the Omani desert there will be air exercises.

Shortly before the maneuvers were due to begin, it was announced that they had been postponed in view of developments in Chad and because U.S. AWACS planes were busy observing the situation in Chad, but an Egyptian spokesman denied this.

If U.S. congressmen themselves do not conceal their concern over the official U.S. intentions behind these maneuvers, then how can the Egyptian Government welcome them while claiming that it pursues neutrality and nonalignment?

Agreeing to offer Egyptian territory as a prooving ground for U.S. weapons is blatantly contrary to the talk of nonalignment and could involve Egypt in the conflict between the superpowers. This is in addition to the use of Egyptian territory as a launchpad for interference in the affairs of the Arab and Islamic countries, as happened during the attempt to free the American hostages in Tehran.

Congressional Delegations Confer With Ghali

NC231247 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today conferred with U.S. congressional delegations currently visiting Cairo within the framework of a study tour of the Middle East. During the meeting, Ghali explained the developments of the Middle East situation, particularly as regards the Palestinian and Lebanese issues, as well as Egypt's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the area. He also underlined the negative effects that the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory has on peace in the area. He added that Egypt calls for the complete Israeli withdrawal from all the Lebanese territory in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 608 and 609.

Ghali affirmed Egypt's insistence on realizing peace despite all the obstacles resulting from Israel's aggressive policies in the area.

Delegation Departs for Israel

NC232124 Cairo MENA in English 2108 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Cairo, Aug 23 (MENA) — The U.S. Congress delegation left here tonight for Tel Aviv after a two-day visit to Egypt during which it had talks with Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Dr. Wajih Shindi, minister of investment affairs and international cooperation. The talks dealt with facets of cooperation between the two countries.

Israeli, Egyptian Oil Ministers Confer 23 Aug

NC231231 Cairo MENA in English 1226 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Cairo, Aug 23 (MENA) — Israeli Minsiter of Energy Yitzhaq Modai conferred here today with Ahmad Hilal, deputy premier for production and minister of oil, on oil issues.

Modai had arrived in Cairo yesterday for a few days visit.

There is an agreement whereby Egypt supplies Israel with two million tons of oil annually.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali on Israel, Relations With Arabs
GF221900 Kuwait Al-Anba' in Arabic 21 Aug 83 p 13

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali by Ahmad Hamrush in Alexandria — no date given]

[Text][Hamrush] My meeting with Kamal Hasan 'Ali took place in Alexandria. He had taken a limited number of days off and gone to Alexandria, and yet work followed him there. Before my visit I had heard that the Israeli ambassador had met with him there. I asked: What did the Israeli ambassador want?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali answered diplomatically: He came for consultations and to reply to the message that I had sent to Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

I felt a sweeping desire to know the Egyptian stand following the Israeli Government's acts of aggression in Lebanon and savage crimes in Sabra and Shatila and recently in Hebron and the West Bank. I asked Kamal Hasan 'Ali: What is the Egyptian stand toward Israel now?

['Ali] Our present stand toward Israel can be summarized as follows: First, rejection of the Israeli policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strop of building settlements, making demographic changes, and imposing harsh conditions that compel some people to emigrate.

Second, the need for Israeli withdrawal from Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

Third, the partial Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon must be part of a timetable for a complete and total withdrawal from Lebanon.

[Hamrush] Do you believe that the Egyptian ambassador's failure to return to Tel Aviv is a kind of protest against Israeli policy, particularly following the incidents at the university in Hebron?

['Ali] The withdrawal of the Egyptian ambassador or his return is basically connected with the Egyptian view of what the Israeli Government is doing to preserve the spirit of peace.

[Hamrush] I realized that, as I have already written, the Egyptian ambassador's return does not seem to be imminent because the behavior of the Israeli Government is still far removed from peace.

Peace, in its wider concept, is no longer confined to what the Egyptian-Israeli agreement has achieved, but is a peace that encompasses the entire region through the liberation of the territories that are still occupied in Lebanon, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. All the political moves, the initiatives and various projects, and the dispatch of U.S. presidential envoys to the region are connected with the attempts to end the deadlock and bring about a situation in which peace can be achieved. Although the demand for withdrawal from the Golan Heights is always relevant and the Israeli deputy foreign minister said in a statement published recently in *Time* magazine that despite the Knesset's decision there can be negotiations with Syria on the Golan Heights, I asked: Is there anything new regarding the Golan Heights?

['Ali] Our principled stand is to ask Israel to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories, and above all from the Golan Heights, because such a withdrawal would be a giant step toward the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

[Hamrush] Have you conveyed this stand to Israel?

['Ali] Yes, many times. Recently, I sent a message to Yitzhaq Shamir that included this demand.

[Hamrush] Did this take place without comsultations with Syria?

['Ali] There is no need for consultation on such a matter. As I have said, our principled stand does not distinguish between the Golan Heights and any Arab territory occupied by Israel.

[Hamrush] I did not mean consultations on sending the message. I meant consultations in order to know what the Syrian thinking is in the present critical stage, following the departure of the Palestinian resistance from Beirut and Syria's rejection of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. Are there no contacts between Cairo and Damascus to coordinate strategic Arab plans, particularly since the tone of Syrian propaganda to Egypt has mellowed noticeably?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali smiled. He felt as though I were seeking a yes or no answer from him. However, the Egyptian foreign minister said diplomatically: There have been no contacts with me.

[Hamrush] Have there been contacts with any other figure?

The foreign minister continued to smile and said: I do not know, but perhaps this takes place indirectly.

I wanted to know Egypt's stand on Syria's rejection of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, of which Egypt announced its approval. I asked: Why did Egypt approve the Lebanese-Israeli agreement?

['Ali] We did so because of certain principles. 1) The Lebanese Government approved it. 2) The agreement ensures prompt Israeli withdrawal, which is very important, because the continued occupation of the Arab land of Lebanon is very serious and allows Israel to control water of several rivers. 3) The agreement provides a chance for the return of stability to Lebanon without internal polarization and sectarian conflicts. 4) Settlement of the Lebanese issue will open the road for settlement of the Palestinian issue. 5) Despite the fact that the agreement does not contain the required limits, it is in accord with the general line of the Fes summit resolutions.

I then asked: Why do you consider the agreement as not containing required limits?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali answered frankly: We believe that the agreement does not fulfill the ambitions of the Lebanese people and the Arab nation for two reasons: First, some of its security

measures constitute impairment of Lebanese sovereignty, because of the presence of Israelis in the Lebanese investigation patrols. And second, the agreement should have coordinated the joint Lebanese-Israeli-Syrian measures. Therefore, we believe the agreement is less than what is desired.

Here I asked the foreign minister: Now that the agreement has stumbled because of Syria's rejection, do you have a justification or an explanation of this stand.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali answered: Syria should receive its full security guarantees. Also its legitimate demand — the liberation of the Golan — should be taken into account. Besides, Israel must not link its withdrawal to Syrian withdrawal. Rather, the Israeli Government must put forth a timetable for its complete withdrawal in accordance with the agreement and this will push Syria to withdraw. Israel also must be flexible on the Golan issue. The issue does not depend on Syria's stand alone but on the stand of the Arab countries which authorized the Syrian forces to be present in Lebanon as a deterrent force. Kamal Hasan 'Ali continued his explanation: Once again I say, if Syria is not assured of security guarantees and the realization of its goal of liberating the Golan, the perpetuation of the Israeli and Syrian presence will lead to the dismemberment of Lebanon. If the problem is not solved, the presence of the Syrian and Israeli forces face-to-face in Al-Biqa' will probably escalate the military situation between them, a matter which will make the region's situation more complicated at a time when there is the possibility of an international confrontation in Lebanon.

This interview was taking place while the three Lebanese ministers were being detained by the Druze in Ash-Shuf and they had not yet been released, and while the Beirut Airport was being shelled and air traffic was suspended, and while booby-trapped cars were exploding in Ba'labakk, Beirut, and Tripoli.

[Hamrush] What is your view of what is taking place in Lebanon and how do you view the Lebanese National Salvation Front? Reports indicate that Israel is spending $1 million daily to maintain its presence in Lebanon, apart from its 130 percent domestic inflation.

['Ali] The tension in Lebanon springs mainly from historical events. Besides, the agreement does not fulfill the ambitions of all, and as I have said, is less than what is wanted. Nonetheless, we are with the Lebanese Government because the agreement was approved by 76 out of 81 possible votes in its parliament. No doubt the Israel's presence in Lebanon costs it both materially and psychologically.

[Hamrush] What is your view on the dispute in Al-Biqa' that the strugglers there exchange fire among themselves instead of holding a dialogue? Sorrow could be seen on Kamal Hasan 'Ali's face as he said:

['Ali] What is happening among the Palestinian brothers in Fatah is regrettable, regrettable. It is regrettable because each time that there are signs of relaxation in the Palestinian issue, a PLO faction attempts to thwart every Palestinian or Arab effort. No doubt its main source and cause is foreign interference in the PLO's work and decisions. Regretfully, this rupture comes at a time when the Palestinian issue has received total sympathy of all international powers, following the courage of the Palestinian resistance, its departure from Beirut, and the beginning of its active move in the political field on various levels and in various other fields, particularly in the negotiations which were being held between the PLO and Jordan.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali resumed his remarks with questioning eyes: It is strange that this stance coincides with Palestine conference which will be held in Geneva on 29 August, a matter which limited a great number of supporting powers of the Palestinian revolution and reduced the level of the participants to observers.

As I said, it is a regrettable matter and my great hope is that Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO leaders will eliminate the difference, which appears to be a routine event. But the method of solution should not be fighting, but democratic dialogue and only within the framework of the PLO.

[Hamrush] Our talk then dealt with another very controversial issue, which at the time of the interview was the leading story in foreign news, and although it was an issue out of the Arab homeland's borders, it still had the potential of violently affecting a number of neighboring Arab countries, that is Egypt, Libya, and Sudan. The issue was the civil war in Chad. Faya-Largeau was captured by Goukouni Oueddei's forces the morning the interview was held, during which 2,000 of his forces — the total of which does not exceed 5,000 — were either captured or killed.

What is Egypt's stance on this problem which has erupted in Chad and attracted forces from France, the United States, and Zaire, and which prompted Reagan sent two AWACS reconnaissance planes as well as eight F-15 fighters?

['Ali] Egypt supports the legitimate government, but this does not mean we will get involved in foreign problems, so long as they do not threaten Egypt's security and borders or Sudan's security and borders, within the framework of the joint defense agreement between us.

[Hamrush] Do we understand from this that Egypt's role will not reach the extent of sending armed forces outside its borders, as happened in the past when it sent forces to Zaire?

['Ali] No, we will not send our armed forces. We are very concerned about the restoration of peace in this friendly African country which has suffered internal wars for 20 years.

[Hamrush] How can peace be achieved?

['Ali] To utilize the OAU and attempt to solve the problem within this framework, away from international interferences. No doubt, any interference from the Libyan side will escalate the situation to the extent of internationalizing the conflict, and this is something which we want to avoid, so that foreign forces will not enter an African country and drag us into tensions and wars which will be to our detriment.

I have read a statement by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister denying any relationship between the joint maneuvers (Bright Star) and the incidents in Chad. While on my way to see

him, I heard on foreign radio stations that the aircraft carrier *Eisenhower* and the destroyer *Virginia* had not arrived in Alexandria to participate in the maneuvers, and according to the commentators, they preferred to remain in the Gulf of Sidra to be near Libyan waters. This shows how tense the situation has become. It has even prompted Libya to propose that the issue be discussed by the Security Council.

[Hamrush] I said to Kamal Hasan 'Ali: I have read your previous statements in which you denied any relationship between the beginning of the joint maneuvers and the eruption of civil war in Chad. Now, after you have assured me that Egypt will not intervene militarily, can you explain to me the meaning of these military maneuvers?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali endeavored to use American and Soviet military terms to say that these maneuvers are in fact joint exercises using similar arms and are aimed at promoting the combat effectiveness of the Egyptian Armed Forces and have no connection with the movements of the U.S. aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean Sea. Kamal Hasan 'Ali is different from all those who held the post of foreign minister in Egypt before and after the revolution. He is an ex-officer in the Armed Forces, he participated in four wars, and he held the post of commander of the armored corps and assistant defense minister. He worked as chairman of the general intelligence from July 1975 to October 1978, a time during which Egypt's policy was radically changing from one position to another. Then, he held ministerial responsibility when he became defense minister, a position he held until 1980. At that time, the Armed Forces had begun to disengage from Sinai and the Egyptian flag was again hoisted in that region. Lastly, Kamal Hasan 'Ali has remained at the Foreign Ministry and witnessed a sharp and clear change in the national positions, especially after the podium incident on 6 October 1981. Therefore, comment by Kamal Hasan 'Ali on diplomatic matters is characterized by military experience and an outlook towards domestic policy.

He continues his remarks by using the word "exercises" instead of "maneuvers" and says: These exercises were decided before the beginning of the Chad problem. They were even decided before the formation of the RDF. Exercises are something and the RDF is something else.

I asked: Is there any written agreement regarding these maneuvers or exercises?

He said: There is no written agreement.

I continued the question: Hence, they do not have any relationship with the strategic objectives of the RDF, whose maneuvers has extended to Sudan, Somalia, and Oman within the framework of the global strategy of the United States?

The foreign minister said: No. We do not have anything to do with that. We are one of the nonaligned states and our territory does not have any foreign military bases. In fact, nonalignment now has a special task in Egypt after Husni Mubarak began to pursue this policy. He visited India after an estrangement that lasted 12 years, visited Yugoslavia, and tried to restore Egypt's historical role in this movement. Nonalignment is no longer a solid slogan; it has become an active Egyptian policy.

When I heard Kamal Hasan 'Ali assuring me that there are not nor will there be any U.S. military bases in Egypt and that Egypt is not involved in U.S. global strategy because it adheres to the policy of nonalignment, I said: But some people say that the United States has an influence inside Egypt and this would influence the nonaligned position.

While his face seemed to be very serious, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: There are some people who like to spread rumors on this matter. Those people had previously spread rumors that there are military bases in Egypt. But I assure you that neither the United States nor any other country has any influence on domestic issues. Perhaps, something like that may exist in economic policy, which is connected with loans, but this is a question of economic transactions, in which every party behaves according to its individual interests.

I asked: Hence, why doesn't the nonaligned policy take its place between the two superpowers, at least at the level of diplomatic representation? The Soviet Union has no ambassador in Egypt and Egypt has no ambassador in Moscow, although we all know that the office of the attorney general has suspended the case which insulted a number of the Egyptian intellectuals by charging them with espionage and led to the expulsion of the Soviet ambassador.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt is trying to restore normal relations. Therefore, there are no limitations or obstacles facing the exchange of ambassadors. It is only a matter of time.

I said to the foreign minister: I am afraid that some diplomatic differences with a number of countries have turned into chronic diseases that are difficult to cure, such as the restoration of diplomatic relations with Cyprus and Bulgaria.

The minister repeated simling: No. There are no chronic diseases. It is only a matter of time. The proof of that is that our economic, trade, and cultural relations with these countries are improving.

[Hamrush] Will relations with the Arab countries also improve? Will the day come when the summer clouds disappear and the sky will become clear again? Have we not learned that the confrontation with Israel — whether through peaceful means or militarily — cannot be won without a unified Arab strategy? What is the real situation? Many questions are being asked by every Arab who is concerned about our pan-Arab unity. Some developments indicate that a change has taken place in the Egyptian-Arab relations. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz visited Cairo. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, former Iraqi information minister and chairman of the Arab journalists union, was also in Alexandria during the time of this interview. Press reports say that Samir an-Najm, the most successful Arab ambassador to work in Cairo, will return to Cairo shortly as an official in charge of Iraqi interests in Egypt. Besides, we hear about open and secret visits between officials. I asked the foreign minister: I feel that there has been some improvement in the Egyptian-Arab relations

which, although remarkable, yet remain low key and slow. Is this from our side or from others? Have we lost the determination? Are there any obstacles in the road?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: It seems to some people that we are not zealous about the restoration of diplomatic relations with the Arab countries. The fact is the opposite. Egypt understands the deteriorating Arab situation. Undoubtedly, Arab solidarity will restore the unity of ideology and action. The Arab nation has never been more in need for such solidarity than it is now. Perhaps, the steps Egypt has taken in support of Arab causes in the Arab Mashriq and Maghreb...

[Hamrush] I interrupted the minister's sentence asking: For example?

['Ali] Egypt's stand on the Palestinian people's issue. We have not accepted Israel's explanation on the peace accord for the Middle East (this is how Kamal Hasan 'Ali referred to it, without saying the Camp David accord), for a period of 3 years. Carter's memoirs are in support of the Egyptian explanation and even for Egypt's desire to conclude such an accord. Egypt rejected, in this accord, what the Palestinian people, represented by the PLO, rejected. In the Gulf war and after the aggression on the Iraqi border, we offered arms without asking for any "political payment." We provided them out of our principles and pan-Arab duty. When Israel hit Iraq's nuclear reactor, we were the first to announce this act before any other country in the world, even before Baghdad itself announced that its nuclear reactor had been attacked.

In the Arab Maghreb, when the situation deteriorated in the Western Sahara, we sent, in response to Morocco's request, planes loaded with ammunition and arms without asking for any "political payment."

The foreign minister continued: Perhaps the steps which Egypt has taken in the Arab Mashriq and Maghreb, out of our pan-Arab responsibility, show our concern that the doors for the restoration of the normal diplomatic relations between us and our brothers in the Arab countries remain open.

We look forward to this out of Egypt's pan-Arab role,irregardless of what some Arab countries have done in exceeding the Baghdad summit resolutions when they asked for the suspension of Egypt's membership in international forums, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligned Movement. I say that we will ignore this conduct in which the voice of the minority ruled, and this stand came to an end a short time ago.

[Hamrush] I interrupted him again and said: Since when?

['Ali] When President Husni Mubarak came to power and adopted the calm policy toward Arab and non-Arab countries. Then these countries understood the nature of Egypt's foreign policy and the principles governing it.

[Hamrush] This interview was held 2 days before the Egyptian move, which the press reported, represented by some officials making visits to carry messages from Husni Mubarak to a number of Arab kings and presidents about the threat facing the Arab nation.

I asked Kamal Hasan 'Ali: When will you visit Iraq?

He answered: It is natural that I will visit Baghdad, although there is no plan to make such a visit at present.

The calm setting before the sea tempted me to ask more questions and inquiries. But a number of ambassadors came and they seemed to have had an appointment. Our interview took more than 2 hours, and Egypt's foreign minister had no time to rest.

I left the Egyptian deputy prime minister to begin a new stage of work.

Mubarak Meets Japanese Friendship Delegation

NC231223 Cairo MENA in English 1211 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Cairo, August 23 (MENA) — Yoshio Sakurachi, president of the Arab-Japanese friendship society who is leading his country's delegation for a visit to Egypt, said today following a one-hour meeting with President Husni Mubarak that he conveyed to President Mubarak the regards of Japanese Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone. He added that President Mubarak briefed him on the latest developments in the area.

Answering a question on Japan's intention to take part in the Middle East mediation efforts, Sakurachi said that the Japanese foreign minister had already visited Iraq and Iran and urged them to halt the war between them.

On his forthcoming visit to Syria, Sakurachi said he would offer advice to Syria and that Japan will exert more efforts to establish security in the Middle East.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Leaves Cairo 23 Aug

NC231438 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA) — Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak left Cairo this afternoon following a 4-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, the Sudanese foreign minister participated in meetings of the Egyptian-Sudanese political and diplomatic committee which discussed a number of topics pertaining to the coordination between the two countries on the political level. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Ministry protocol department director Yahya Rif'at.

Integration Council To Meet in September

NC240757 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA) — The magazine *Akhir Sa'ah* reports that the Supreme Council for integration between Egypt and Sudan will hold an important meeting under Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Ja'far Numayri sometime in the middle of September. The council will discuss a number of significant topics related to integration affairs and current events in the Middle East region.

The magazine points out that the political committee, whose formation has been agreed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani will submit a working paper to coordinate the two countries' joint stands, particularly during the forthcoming UN General Assembly session in New York.

Mubarak Receives Message from Pope John Paul

NC231244 Cairo MENA in English 1244 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Cairo, Aug. 23 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received today a message from His Holiness Pope John Paul II expressing the Vatican's interest in the Middle East peace efforts. The message, sent in reply to one from President Mubarak, was conveyed by Monsignor Achille Gloriej, the papal nuncio in Egypt, to Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The message from President Mubarak had been carried by Dr. Ghali to the pope last month.

Tourism Talks With Jordan To Be Resumed

NC240746 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA) — The magazine *Akhir Sa'ah* reports that an official delegation from the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities will soon leave for Cairo at the invitation of the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism in order to resume and revive talks which were held in Amman in March. The talks aim to promote and organize tourism between the two countries.

It should be recalled that the previous talks had aimed at linking Jordan and Egypt by road across the Sinai via the Gulf of 'Aqaba and Nuwaybi' near Tabah to promote tourism between the two countries.

Briefs

Oil, Prospecting Agreements — The Egyptian Oil Authority has completed 26 new agreements on oil and natural gas exploration in the western desert, to be signed with five companies — Dutch, German, Italian, French, and American. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Petroleum 'Izz ad-Din Hilal has requested that the agreements incorporate terms that make it obligatory for the contracting companies, in addition to their basic task, to prospect for sources of mineral wealth and water suitable for irrigation. [Text][Cairo Al-Ahram in Arabic 20 Aug 83 p 1]

Armed Forces General Command Communique 1,195

JN231621 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Communique No 1,195 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 23 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Armed Forces continued their brave activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the suspect Khomeyniite regime. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing five, wounding others, and destroying two vehicles, one 106-mm gun, with those manning it killed, one infantry position, and three observation posts with their occupants killed.

2. Formations of our bold fighter planes today carried out intensive attacks on enemy positions and units in the northern sector of the battlefield and on enemy concentrations deep inside its territory, scoring direct and effective hits. Our capable helicopter gunships today also carried out effective raids against enemy concentrations and positions in the same sector, inflicting losses in both men and equipment. All our aircraft returned safely to base.

3. Last night and today the vile Khomeyniite clique shelled Mandali and its suburbs and Qal'at Dizah, causing damage to three houses in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces Gneral Command, 23 Aug 1983

SFRY's Dragan Makes Statement, Departs

JN231830 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA) — Zvone Dragan, vice president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, and his delegation left Baghdad for home this evening at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq.

Dragan told INA that during the visit he had several meetings with senior Iraqi officials on the ways to promote economic cooperation between the two friendly countries. He added that his talks dealt with the SFRY's role within the Nonaligned Movement for the sake of ending the Iraqi-Iranian war and settling the conflict peacefully.

Dragan also praised the present development plans in Iraq despite war circumstances.

Monte Carlo: Three Abu Nidal Members Arrested

JN231318 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] A well informed source in Amman today stated that three members of the Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group, a splinter group of the Fatah Movement, were recently arrested in Jordan when they entered the Kingdom with forged passports. The source added that they are still being interrogated.

Khalil al-Hasan To Leave Amman 24 August

JN240812 Amman Ad-Dustur in Arabic 24 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Amman — Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the PNC foreign relations committee, will leave Amman today for Tunis. Later, he will go to Czechoslovakia to join the PNC delegation currently visiting Prague headed by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum.

Austrian Defense Minister Arrives in Amman

JN231230 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, received at his office this afternoon Austrian National Defense Minister Dr Friedhelm and the accompanying military delegation. The meeting was attended by Staff Major General Fathi Abu Talib, the chief of staff, and the Austrian ambassador in Amman.

The guest minister and his delegation arrived in Amman this morning via Ar-Ramtha. He was received by the assistant cheif of staff for manpower affairs and a number of high-ranking officers of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Trade Unions Rap Attempts To Influence ICATU

JN231722 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The secretary general of the General Federation of Trade Unions in Jordan has sent a memo to the secretary general of the International Confederration of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] calling on ICATU to rise to the level of Pan-Arab responsibility, avoid taking sides, halt any outside interference in its internal affairs, and assert its independence as a framework embracing all Arab trade union federations.

The memo, which was dispatched by Khalil Abu Khurmah, acting secretary general of the General Federation of Trade Unions in Jordan, says: The political pressure exercised by certain states whose stands on certain Arab issues are well known has had a negative effect on ICATU's pan-Arab stands, which seek to achieve the aspirations and hopes of workers in the Arab homeland.

The memo calls on ICATU's secretariat to play a leading role in defending crucial Arab issues, rise to the level of events in the Arab arena, repudiate divisions and differences and adopt neutral stands on these differences, reject all attempts to dominate ICATU, and affirm ICATU's independent decisionmaking.

Syrian-Israeli Shelling Reported at Al-Baruk
NC231815 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The clashes that began at 1530 today between the Israeli forces stationed on the Al-Baruk ridges and the Syrian positions in Al-Biqa' ceased at 1800.

Our correspondent has learned that the Israelis shelled the Syrian positions in Majdal 'Anjar, Dayrzaynun, and on the Al-Ghaydah plain, where five shells landed. The shelling extended to (Tallat Safwan), where a similar number of shells landed. Meanwhile, other shells were fired in the direction of the Ksarah area. The shelling also engulfed Barr Ilyas and Kafr Zabad.

The Syrians [as heard] used fragmentation shells [qadha'if inshitariyah] that made direct hits on some emplacements.

In another report, the Palestinian internecine fighting today ranged from the north to the Al-Biqa'. While the clashes in the Al-Baddawi camp, near Tripoli, calmed down, other clashes erupted violently in the Al-Biqa' late this afternoon.

Syrians, Socialists Again Shell Kasrawan Area
NC240848 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The Syrians and socialists shelled the Kasrawan region for the second consecutive day today as part of their campaign of pressure and intimidation. Our correspondent cites security sources as saying that the Grad missiles and field artillery emplacements with which the Syrians and socialists are carrying out the shelling are located east of Tallat az-Za'rur, which is under Syrian control. Our correspondent adds that these emplacements are the same ones that shelled the Kasrawan region yesterday.

Six shells fell today on 'Aynturah, Bkirki, Juniyah, Nahr al-Kalb, and Dubbiyah. The shell that fell on the Juniyah area wounded three persons. They were moved to Sayyidat Lubnan Hospital, where their slight wounds were dressed immediately. They later went home.

Syrians Deploy More Forces in Al-Biqa'
NC231614 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Syrian military command has replaced its forces in the north withmen from the special units in light of information about increasing activities by Muslim Brotherhood members in Wadi Khalid.

In Al-Biqa', the Syrians have deployed additional forces along the line extending from Al-Qurnah As-Sawda' to the Al-Yammunah hills. These forces are equipped with eight 130-mm guns, surface-to-surface missile launchers, and antiaircraft and antiarmor weapons.

Pierre al-Jumayyil, Sham'un, Salam on Shelling
NC221610 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] Commenting on the escalation of the military and shelling activities, [Phalangist Party leader] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil today made a special statement to the Radio Free Lebanon in which he said: What Syria wants from Lebanon by any means and under any pressure is to annul the 17 May agreement which provides for the Israeli withdrawal as a first step toward liberation, and which we reached after difficult negotiations with Arab approval and the Lebanese will.

While expecting the escalation to continue until the question of the agreement is settled, the Phalangist leader called on Syria to openly and frankly present an alternative for liberating Lebanon, because if Lebanon were to reject the agreement — which is the only means for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces — that would firmly establish two occupations on its territory and would give the opportunity to Israel and Syria to implicitly agree on sharing its territory. One would thus slice off the south and turn it into a northern bank, and the other would occupy the Al-Biqa' and the north.

The Phalangist leader added: If Lebanon were to abrogate the agreement, it will return to the unending story of liberating its territory, and indeed it will add another problem — namely the Israeli presence will be consolidated by Lebanon's rejection of the only means to have this presence removed. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil asked anew: Does Syria really want the occupation to continue and Lebanon to be partitioned and not to regain its sovereignty, independence and freedom? What happened to Syria's pledges in this regard? We have often declared our readiness to accept any method that will lead to the withdrawal of the Israeli and other foreign forces, bearing in mind that the previous Arab experience in the context of military force against Israel was not encouraging and Lebanon cannot do so on its own.

[Former] President Camille Sham'un affirmed to Radio Free Lebanon that there is no reason for the shelling that has taken place, other than destruction and the creation of an atmosphere of insecurity. He expressed his conviction that the cease-fire will not last because the shelling was carried out without any reason, and it can be resumed at any time. He remarked that today's Syrian-socialist shelling took place in the wake of the ministerial security-conciliation committee's visit to the north. President Sham'un said that it is possible that the shelling is used as a means of pressure by Syria to have the Lebanese-Israeli agreement anulled.

Commenting on today's deterioration in the security situation, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam said: While efforts are diligently being made to resolve the mountain problem, we were afflicted by an explosion and the ensuing destruction and fear that was generated among the citizens. It is as if whoever has done this is either a criminal who has no consideration for his country's interests or an agent submitting to non-Lebanese motives.

PSP on Shelling; Palestinian Clashes Reported

JN231813 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Telephone dispatch from Radio Monte Carlo Beirut correspondent George Bashir]

[Excerpt] A responsible source in the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] announced in a statement issued this afternoon that the artillery and rocket shells which hit Al-Ashrafiyah, Al-Matn, and Kasrawan yesterday were necessary to make those who insist on continuing the so-called aggression against the mountain realize that our arm is long and that we can reach and hit the aggressors anywhere. The socialist statement criticizes [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam for condemning the haphazard shelling yesterday. It calls on him to define the legitimacy with which he wants the socialists and others to express solidarity. It adds that it is no longer acceptable to see a man like Sa'ib Salam talk about criminals without specifying them, and those who stand behind and in front of them.

At 1630 today, violent clashes began in the Al-Biqa' area between the two Fatah wings. These clashes, in which various types of weapons were used, took place immediately after the battles that raged in the Al-Baddawi refugee camp near Tripoli in northern Lebanon between the PFLP-GC's two wings, which ended in favor of the dissidents who have risen against Ahmad Jibril's leadership.

Security reports arriving in Beirut say that 'Arafat's supporters took part alongside the PFLP-GC dissidents in the Al-Baddawi camp fighting. Meanwhile, Ahmad Jibril's supporters are fighting alongside the Fatah dissidents in the Al-Biqa' area. No reports are available on the material and human losses in the Al-Biqa' clashes.

Junblatt Reportedly 'Annoyed' With Syrian Stand

NC231323 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Informed sources have told the Voice of Lebanon that Walid Junblatt is annoyed with the Syrian stand, particularly in light of a report yesterday from Damascus attributed to a source in the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] that Junblatt threatened to shell Beirut Airport. These sources stated that Junblatt has asked a number of the PSP leaders in Beirut to not make any statement or adopt any position unless it is signed in the name of the party.

Damascus resorted to this game after it realized that Junblatt has begun to accept the idea of a Lebanese accord. Thus, the Syrian information media attributed the statement announced yesterday to the PSP. Junblatt found himself in an embarrassing situation, because he cannot publicly deny what the Syrian media attribute to him in view of the situation in which he is living.

In the meantime, the Druze have begun secret contacts calling for the army's entry to the mountain. However, military pressure by armed socialists prevents these contacts from emerging and becoming public.

Salim, McFarlane Discuss Israeli Withdrawal

NC231240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane today resumed his talks in Beirut. He met with Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim for 1/2 hour.

The discussion dealt with the subject of the Israeli withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf and the diplomatic activity being undertaken by McFarlane, who is expected to leave this afternoon for Israel.

Preparations Underway for Israeli Redeployment

NC240701 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] Against the background of the continued calm security situation in the mountain and the other areas, the most prominent political development in Lebanon is the Israeli decision to begin the partial withdrawal from the Lebanese territory to the Al-Awwali River line on Sunday and to complete it by 8 September. However, Lebanon has not officially been informed of this date. At any rate, this Israeli decision, albeit not unexpected, is considered a turning point in the course of the Lebanese issue. It will create a new reality on the ground, specifically in the mountain area where the security situation has been deteriorating.

However, reports carried by news agencies in the past hours pointed out that the pertinent Lebanese authorities have adopted a final decision to fill the security vacuum that will be created in the mountain as a result of the Israeli redeployment. The authorities issued orders to the responsible military quarters to carry out this task.

The reports also spoke about urgent activity being undertaken by Lebanon and the United States to ensure that the withdrawal and the filling of the vacuum will take place without incident. This activity is reportedly taking place on two levels — military and political. U.S. General Cooley, who participated in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, as well as a number of U.S. officers, are involved in the military activity. The diplomatic activity is led by U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane.

Al-Jumayyil Holds Meetings With Salim, Al-As'ad

NC240645 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim yesterday evening visited President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and briefed him on the outcome of his talks with U.S. envoy McFarlane.

Later, President al-Jumayyil received a Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad on his weekly visit to the palace. The discussion dealt with the general situation in Lebanon.

Salim Briefs Higher Liaison Body on Efforts

NC231236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The higher liaison body held a meeting in the Republican Palace at noon today. The meeting was attended by the Italian ambassador; the U.S., French, and British charges d'affaires; the commanders of the multinational force; and the Lebanese officers team. Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim substituted for the president of the republic in chairing the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, the head of the military operations room at the Republican Palace presented a report on the security situation in the country, focusing on the innocent victims of the indiscriminate shelling of the populated areas, as well as the serious material damage caused to the citizens' property.

Minister Salim then briefed the conferees regarding the contacts and energetic efforts exerted by the government to close the ranks in the country and to prepare the positive atmosphere for the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh areas. He stressed that the army will not enter the mountain area to support one party against the other, but it will be for all the Lebanese, regardless of their affiliations, because the army is made up from all Lebanon and for all Lebanon.

Minister Salim also congratulated General Angioni, the commander of the Italian contingent, for his safe escape from the incident in which he was involved. Gen Angioni earlier told the conferees that a Grad 122-mm missile had fallen near his vehicle while he was inspecting his units in Burj al-Barajinah. The meeting ended at 1300.

Failure of Diplomatic, U.S. Moves Examined

NC231305 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] A responsible, high-ranking official said today that the diplomatic and political solutions have been exhausted, and that the means used so far have reached a deadlock. He said that there has been no progress in either U.S. envoy McFarlane's mission or the mission to achieve conciliation.

The source pointed out that the special U.S. envoy is acting out of a sense of duty and that the ministerial security and conciliation committee is acting to avoid being blamed. Regarding the conciliation committee, it has been disclosed that the three ministers — Hamiyah, Muruwwah, and Khuri — heard remarks from some of those with whom they met that are humiliating for the Lebanese authorities, but they did not react. They weresupposed to stop their talk with the parties who attacked the government in a way lacking propriety. The ministers not only did not react, but they also expressed false optimism.

This source said that the authority is considering a new internal Lebanese move away from the limelight in view of the failure of the diplomatic efforts. He also said that meetings are being held comprising civilians and military men to discuss steps that must be taken in the forthcoming stage to confront the Syrian escalation, which Damascus — together with certain Lebanese personalities operating in the Syrian-occupied areas — announced. He further said that contacts were held with the U.S. Administration regarding this issue.

Lebanon has asked U.S. officials for proper support at the proper time and place, or else Lebanon will consider the U.S. commitment to solve the Lebanese issue as impractical and as not helping to liberate and unify the country.

Al-Jumayyil's Election Anniversary Celebrated

NC231736 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Spontaneous popular demonstrations were staged in Beirut and other areas today on the occasion of the first anniversary of the election of martyr Shaykh Bashir Al-Jumayyil as president of the republic. Streets, cars, national [word indistinct] were decorated with flags. Speeches praising the president were also delivered in various quarters.

On this occasion, Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram pledged tothe martyr president to continue the march, whatever the sacrifices. He said: In the homeland which we are seeking to achieve, the army has great cause to impose security wherever and whenever the political authority wants, because security cannot be imposed by mutual consent. It is a homeland in which the victor is the one who takes up arms to defend it, its sanctity, and its freedom.

The vanquished is the one who seeks the help of foreigners to undermine the homeland's characteristics and destroy its institutions. It is a homeland in which any citizen who is not motivated by his sectarian chauvinism and feelings can live in security, freedom, and stability, regardless of his religious affiliation. It is a homeland in which the citizens' aspirations are directed inward — not outward. It is a homeland in which the loyalist is rewarded and the plotter is punished.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese Shi'ite Official 23 Aug

JN231920 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] At 1215 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council in Lebanon. The talks during the meeting dealt with the situation in the Lebanese arena and the need to unify and increase efforts to oust the Israeli forces from all Lebanese territories, giving no opportunity to Israel to impose conditions which encroach on the security of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab countries.

President al-Asad affirmed Syria's full support for all Lebanese nationalists struggling to liberate Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

Az-Zu'bi Receives USSR Charge d'Affaires 23 Aug

JN231605 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus, 23 Aug (SANA) — People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi today received the USSR charge d'affaires in Damascus. The talks during the meeting touched on the visit made by the People's Assembly delegation to the USSR recently.

Az-Zu'bi expressed satisfaction with the talks that were held, and delight for the warm hospitality extended to the delegation during their stay there. This warm reception reflects the strong ties of friendship between the two countries and appreciation for Syria's principled and steadfast stand against imperialist and Zionist plans.The talks also dealt with the current situation in the Arab region and the international arena, as well as the dangers resulting from the continued Israeli aggression.

At the end of the meeting, the People's Assembly speaker asked the USSR charge d'affaires to convey his greetings and those of the members of the People's Assembly delegation to Comrade Vitaliy Petrovich Ruben, chairman of the USSR Council of Nationalities, and other Soviet comrades and officials with whom the delegation met during its visit. He also expressed gratitude for the amicability, friendship, and constructive impressions which the Soviet officials displayed during the talks.

Khaddam Receives U.S. Congressional Delegation

JN231600 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus, 23 Aug (SANA) — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received here this afternoon the U.S. Congressional delegation headed by Senator Clarence D. Long, which is currently visiting Syria. The director of the American Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting which reviewed the current situation in the Middle East.

The seven-man congressional delegation arrived in Damascus at noon today as part of a tour of several of the region's countries.

Israeli Plans, Lebanese Accord Assessed

JN231550 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Lebanon, which is experiencing a national tribulation represented by Israel's occupation of its territories and the will of its regime, is now required to accomodate itself to Israel's plan for the redeployment of its invading forces and the demarcation of the borders of its occupation on the Lebanese map. Lebanon is to do this in such a manner as to have the problem appear as one of how a partial withdrawal should be accomplished in light of the ill-reputed agreement, and how the Lebanese regime should fill the vacuum caused by the relocation of the enemy forces on Lebanese territories.

Within this framework, the ruling brain at B'abda Palace has to find an answer to the question of the partial withdrawal, and how to adjust to the new Israeli security and military plan. Thus, the cards will once again become confused, and U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane will have to play his role by diverting attention away from the real problem — that of an Israeli occupation in the wake of an invasion and destruction — to that of its results, among which is the partial withdrawal, which is merely one of the manifestations of a greater reality brought on by the occupation.

The role which McFarlane is carrying out is one which defines the nature of his mission and also condemns it to failure, as has been the case of his predecessors. McFarlane did not come with a plan to achieve the withdrawal of the Israeli forces of invasion from Lebanon. He came to deal with a plan formulated by Israel on the redeployment of its forces. Hence, even influential U.S. political circles have condemned the mission of Reagan's envoy to failure and predicted that he will reap another disappointment for U.S. diplomacy. This disappointment will not be less severe than the disappointments reaped by Habib, Shultz, and the others who preceded him with U.S. solutions to Israel's security and strategic problems, and not to the problems of the Arabs whose territories are occupied and whose rights are squandered on the altar of U.S. strategic security in the Middle East.

The U.S. Administration, which gave the green light for the invasion of Lebanon, considered this invasion a historical opportunity to achieve peace in this region, which is rich in oil resources and wars. It armed the Zionist criminals and provided them with all the components of war and aggression. It compensated the losses that their military arsenals had suffered during the invasion. It refused to condemn or punish Israel for its crimes, thus flouting the will and law of the international community and Lebanon's national interests. It rewarded the aggressor and consolidated its strategic agreement with the enemy. It equipped the enemy arsenal with new types of sophisticated weapons such as F-16 planes, and announced in the person of the master of the White House that Israel is a strategic gain for the United States.

It has rewarded the aggressor for all his crimes in Lebanon, foremost of which are this enemy's violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and national security. It evades the basic problem while realizing very well the essence of the problem. Thus, the U.S. Administration seems to be clinging to the

contract of submission, which all the national and Islamic forces in Lebanon have unanimously agreed to denounce and confront. However, the agreement seems to be born dead in view of the Syrian veto against it, as one U.S. politician has remarked.

The forthcoming U.S. presidential election motivates the United States to cling to the agreement, which was signed between Begin's government and Al-Wazzan's government. Reagan, who represents the monopolist financial forces and the great military imperialism in the United States, wants to exploit that agreement in this election. He also wants to use foreign policy to back his domestic policy. Despite this, the Lebanese regime continues to ignore facts in the Middle East, Lebanese, and international arenas. The Lebanese regime reiterated its call for accord and formed a ministerial committee, which met with the Lebanese National Salvation Front and held consultations without achieving any success.

How can accord be achieved while the formula of victor and vanquished controls the ruling Phalangist mentality? How can accord be achieved while the Phalangists are advancing to Jabal Lubnan and continue their aggression against the nationalist position in collusion with the occupation forces? How can accord be achieved while Israel tries to carry out a partial withdrawal with the intent of annexing the south, and while the Lebanese regime appeals to Israel to stay due to its failure to fill the security vacuum? How can accord be achieved while the Lebanese regime continues its silence over the repressive Israeli practices in southern Lebanon? How can accord be achieved while the Lebanese regime continues to be an agent for Israel and uses the invading enemy against the Lebanese people? Lebanon receives the Israeli war criminals such as Sharon, Arens, and Kimche. How can accord be achieved when the Lebanese regime signed the agreement with Israel, and continues to adhere to the agreement that violates Lebanon's identity, and which Israel signed to prolong its occupation. How can accord be achieved while the Lebanese regime continues to ignore nationalist and Islamic opposition. It also ignores the will of the majority of the Lebanese people, who are rejecting the occupation and resisting it day by day.

How can accord be achieved while the Lebanese regime takes a position hostile to Syria. Thus, the Lebanese regime reiterates its call for an accord to peddle the agreement of submission and enable the factional, sectarian Phalangists to controle new regions in Lebanon. Syria — which is working for the liberation of Lebanon, and exerting its efforts to enable Lebanon to regain its sovereignty, independence, and unity — affirms that Lebanese accord is the only means for repelling the occupation and returning Lebanon to its people, Arabism, and vital role in the region.

Syria warns, however, that the real accord does not lie in regional security and factional agreements which contribute to the continued occupation. The majority of the Lebanese people are calling for a political accord. The Lebanese National Salvation Front, the Amal Movement, the parties, the groupings, and the Christian and Islamic nationalists are calling for such an accord. This accord cannot be achieved without the cancellation of the agreement of submission, the resignation of the Lebanese Government, and the disarmament of the Phalangists. To achieve such an accord, the Lebanese regime should stop any contact with the enemy leaders, set up a new government, and draw up a new national charter. These represent necessary conditions for any national accord on the condition that the Lebanese regime not undertake a new political maneuver in service of the occupation.

ATH-THAWRAH Blames Phalangists For Fighting

JN231106 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Damascus, 23 Aug (SANA) — In a comment today and under the headline "The Israeli-Phalangist War to Partition Lebanon," *Ath-Thawrah* says: The participation of the Israeli forces in yesterday's battles which took place in the mountain alongside the Phalangist militias, clearly reveals the dimensions of the partial withdrawal plan and the Phalangist's serious role in partitioning Lebanon.

The paper adds: During the past days, Israel has threatened Lebanon with more blood baths. It has also supported the Phalangist forces in the shelling against the positions of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party in an attempt to enable Israel's agents to control this vital area of Lebanon.

The paper wonders: How can the Lebanese authority talk about a nation accord in face of Israel's presence and serious and flagrant interference in Lebanon's affairs? It says: Any talk about national accord cannot be sound with the continuation of the Phalangist control, the presence of the contract of submission, and the Lebanese regime's insistence on carrying out the big partitioning conspiracy.

Ath-Thawrah concludes: What is taking place is not in favor of the factional regime, because it will pay a double price this time after almost turning Lebanon into an Israeli-Phalangist settlement.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives in Damascus 23 Aug

JN231957 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus — At 1900 today, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Damascus on a visit to Syria.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received him at Damascus International Airport.

IDF Fires At Syrian Positions in Lebanon

TA231810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] This morning four IDF soldiers were wounded when a bomb exploded along a road in the eastern sector of Lebanon near the village of 'Ammiq. The IDF responded with artillery fire at Syrian Army positions. Here is our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

[Tal] Today the IDF directed artillery fire at the Syrians in response to terrorist activity in 'Ammiq. The cannons fired at Syrian Army positions controlling the Beirut-Damascus highway. It is a long-standing IDF policy to respond with fire to actions by terrorists who come from Syrian territory, not necessarily at the actual site of the incident or even in the same sector. The IDF responds in a place of its own choosing and at its own convenience.

The terrorists infiltrated into the territory under IDF control between the line of the positions and the 'Ammiq line — that of 'Ammiq village. Apparently they traveled nearly 3 km in the darkness and placed a bomb beside the road. Two armored personnel carriers and a jeep passed the spot, and four soldiers were wounded by the force of the explosion. They were taken to a hospital and the IDF combed the area.

The footprints of the terrorists, who had fled to the area under Syrian control, were discovered. The detonator was also found.

The Syrians generally try to stop the terrorists from acting, and it is only from time to time that they permit them to go out on attacks. It is, therefore, clear that if the Syrians had been interested in doing so, they could have completely stopped the terrorists' activity. Such attempts have been going on for a long time. The terrorists fire bursts to disturb the positions, especially at night, and from time to time they place mines.

Let us recall, at this point, that the IDF is not withdrawing from the eastern sector, not even after the departure of the forces from the Beirut-Damascus highway — this is for the time being. The IDF will continue to hold onto the Al-Biqa' region at least until the Syrians state their willingness to leave. As I stated, the IDF is determined to prevent the development of a war of attrition in this sector. It is reserving to itself the option of responding with fire when it is convenient to do so, and against targets it chooses, as it did today.

Disappointment With McFarlane Mission Noted

TA241000 Tel Aviv Ma'ariv in Hebrew 24 Aug 83 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Jerusalem is growing increasingly disappointed with the mission of special U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane, for having failed to make any progress in the efforts toward achieving an arrangement in Lebanon.

It is believed in the Israeli capital that the exacerbated tension and the shooting involving the Ash-Shuf Druze and Christians is a manifestation of the U.S. envoy's failure to bring about a dialogue. Israel has complained about McFarlane's excessively conciliatory attitude toward Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, as well as the fact that he [not further specified] has not managed to begin national reconciliation in Lebanon prior to the IDF withdrawal to the Al-'Awwali.

Israel will make it clear to McFarlane that the withdrawal date is imminent, and that all its efforts and desire to guarantee the Lebanese rearguard notwithstanding, Israel has no intention of taking long-term action in spheres that are the purview of the sovereign Lebanese Government and Army. According to information Israel possesses, the Lebanese Army plans to enter the Ash-Shuf area after the Israeli evacuation, but all attempts to coordinate this entry with the Druze leaders have ended in nothing so far.

Jerusalem estimates that Syria is exploiting the Lebanese Administration's weakness to the maximum, and that Damascus intends to try and torpedo the entry of the Lebanese Army into the Ash-Shuf area, despite U.S. and Israeli warnings against Syria's trying to fill the vacuum that will be created in that area as a result of the Israeli withdrawal.

Richard Murphy, the assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, will hold his first meeting with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today. This is his first visit to Israel, in the course of which he will attempt to allay Israel's apprehensions regarding his assuming this post, in light of his having served in various senior diplomatic capacities in Saudi Arabia and Syria. U.S. sources in Israel have claimed that Richard Murphy is a veteran career diplomat, and there is no reason for Israel to fear that he might tamper with Washington's political balance and the special U.S. relations with Israel.

Murphy arrived in Israel at the invitation of U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis, who recommended that Murphy make a get-acquainted visit with the Israeli policymakers before beginning duty.

Liberian President Doe Continues Official Visit

Meeting With Begin

TA231255 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1145 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The meeting between the prime minister and foreign minister and visiting Liberian President Samuel Doe at the prime minister's office ended a short while ago. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports from the prime minister's office:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] The meeting lasted for about an hour. At the beginning, the prime minister and the foreign minister conferred with the visiting president and his foreign minister. Later, the meeting was joined by representatives of the Israeli Foreign Ministry and members of the Liberian president's entourage. At the end of the meeting, Prime Minister Begin said he congratulated the Liberian president for his courageous decision to renew relations with Israel and for coming to Jerusalem for a visit.

[Begin — in English] We are very grateful for your courageous decision to reestablish diplomatic relations between Liberia and Israel. We do hope that other African countries will follow in your footsteps. We also agree with you that all the possible endeavors should be made to establish peace throughout Africa and throughout the Middle East.

[Ben-'Ami] In his reply, the Liberian president said he will make every effort to influence his colleagues — other leaders of African countries — to resume relations with Israel. His government is prepared to contribute to the effort to establish peace in the Middle East. Samuel Doe said he hopes the peace process will be successfully concluded.

[Doe — in English] I hope the peace initiative taken by the State of Israel will be followed by the Palestinian people, and that they all will be willing to come for a peaceful discussion rather than meeting on the battlefield.

[Ben-'Ami] President Doe says he hopes that the Palestinians and additional Arab countries will join the peace process, and will substitute this for the battlefield. At the moment, the Liberian president is lunching with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. In the afternoon he will visit an IDF base, meet with the chief of staff, and watch an IDF firing exercise. In the evening he will attending a dinner given by the prime minister and president. [end recording]

More on Meetings, Dinner

TA240748 Jerusalem The Jerusalem Post in English 24 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Israeli experts are to leave soon for Liberia to examine the country's agricultural problems and draw up an aid plan. This was agreed to yesterday in meetings held in Jerusalem by Liberian President Samuel Doe with Premier Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Also promised was aid in the treatment of eye diseases in Liberia and cooperation in the establishment of a Liberian national maritime company.

Doe and his party are the first black African leaders officially to visit Israel since most of the continent's states severed diplomatic relations with Israel following the Yom Kippur war in 1973.

Yesterday the Liberian leaders met with Begin and Shamir for talks and a working lunch. Begin expressed gratitude to Doe for his "courageous decision to reestablish diplomatic relations." He said he hopes others would follow in Doe's footsteps.

The major subjects of discussion yesterday were Libya's invasion of Chad and relations between Israel and Liberia. The Liberians asked for Israel's aid in improving their country's agriculture, upgrading its ophthalmology services, and the creation of a national shipping line.

Later, at a state dinner at Bet Hanasi, [the presidential residence] Doe said: "A just and lasting peace cannot prevail in the Middle East without due recognition of the God-given rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to a state of their own." "Care must be taken not to allow Israel's legitimate need to defend itself to be equated to a situation where those who have been seen as victims of suffering are perceived as inflicting suffering on others," Doe said.

Throughout his speech, Doe reiterated Liberia's admiration for Israel and hailed the ties which have linked the two countries since 1948. Doe said that Libya's continued intervention in Chad is viewed by Liberia "with utmost regret and dismay." He called on the world to support "the legitimate government of President Hissein Habre in order to resist Libyan aggression and preserve Chadian sovereignty."

President Hayim Herzog, who hosted the dinner, also devoted part of his speech to the Libyan invasion of Chad. He charged that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is trying to turn Chad "into a vassal state and the springboard for further aggression into Africa."

Earlier in the day, Doe visited Yad Vashem [holocaust memorial]. He also laid a wreath at the grave of Theodor Herzel before proceeding to the Knesset where he inspected an honour guard and was welcomed by Speaker Menahem Savidor.

Today, Doe is scheduled to meet with Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek.

Herzog Entertains Doe

TA232114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Report by correspondent 'Oded ben-'Ami]

[Text] This evening President Hayim Herzog gave a formal dinner in honor of Liberian President Samuel Doe. The dinner was also attended by the Knesset speaker and the prime minister, ministers, Knesset members, and other notables.

In his speech, President Herzog recalled Liberia's vote against the UN resolution that compared Zionism with racism. He also condemned apartheid in South Africa and recalled the past relations between Israel and the African countries. Mr Herzog repeated his condemnation of Libya's intervention in Chad, and said that Al-Qadhdhafi's dream of ruling the continent should be shattered.

In his reply, the Liberian president said his government was in favor of the Camp David agreement, as well as the UN resolutions, and upholding the Palestinians' rights. He also condemned the discrimination in South Africa and Libya's activity on the continent. The Liberian president advised the world's countries to help Chad. He also said he anticipated further cooperation between Israel and Liberia.

Doe Receives Aid Promises

TA231549 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1350 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Israel will send agricultural and medical teams to Liberia to examine the aid it needs in these fields. This was reported at

the end of a meeting that was held this afternoon between the Liberian president and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel also reports that Israel has promised to help Liberia develop a chain of supermarkets and a national shipping company. The Liberian president also asked for Israel's aid in encouraging economic elements in the United States to invest in his country.

Our correspondent points out that in the talk with the foreign minister, Samuel Doe expressed deep concern at Libya's intervention in the conflict in Chad.

Advisers May Be Sent

TA240823 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] Israel may send military advisers to Liberia. This has emerged following the meeting this morning between Liberian President Samuel Doe and Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

After the talk, Arens told our correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami that the Liberian president and the members of his government are full of praise for the IDF. President Doe is scheduled to visit the Israel Military Industry and the Israel Aircraft Industries today.

Foreign Ministry Appoints Ambassador To Liberia

TA240529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has appointed Gavri'el Gavri'eli Israel's ambassador to Liberia. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Gavri'el will depart in the near future for Monrovia.

Ben-Eli'ezer Calls Autonomy 'Best Solution'

TA240824 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0748 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Reported by correspondent Alon Diskin].

[Text] The coordinator of activities in the territories, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, said this morning that autonomy is the best solution for Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. If people are found in the territories with whom it is possible to establish autonomy, that will be a step forward. He said that in the future he will try to narrow the gaps between the views in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; increase the security of the inhabitants; and get them to join a dialogue.

Ben-Eli'ezer was speaking to members of the United Jewish Appeal.

Arens Visits Bethlehem, Meets With Frayj

TA240728 Jerusalem The Jerusalem Post in English 24 Aug 83 p 3

[Report by Robert Rosenberg]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens yesterday visited Bethlehem and discussed with Mayor Ilyas Frayj how to improve the quality of life there. Frayj, who believes that a political solution to the problems of the West Bank is far off, called the hour-long talks "useful." Arens and Frayj began what Arens called a "dialogue" the day before, during meetings at the minister's Tel Aviv office. Yesterday's session was to discuss in greater detail problems facing the town.

Among these problems are is a large deficit, problems caused "by the bureaucracy" in transfering money from the Arab world to the West Bank, and the release of security prisoners, Frayj said later. "We all agree it usually takes a long time to solve political problems," Arens said after the meeting. "In the meantime, we must live together."

Describing Bethlehem as a model city "that can and should be an example that Jews and Arabs, Moslems and Christians" can live together, Arens promised Frayj that he would do his best to help the mayor solve some of the more pressing municipal problems. A source in Bethlehem city hall said officials hope the dialogue will give a boost to projects such as a refrigerated market for agricultural produce, a new city sewage system, and major road work.

Arens was warmly greeted by Frayj and other officials and both parties were all smiles before, during, and after the meeting.

The last defense minister to visit Bethlehem was 'Ezer Weizman, who resigned the post in May 1980 over the issue of cuts in the defense budget. Arens arrived in Bethlehem by helicopter from Ari'el. He was accompanied by [Major General-Res.] Binyamin Ben-'Eli'ezer, the government's coordinator of the administered territories.

Money Ban Discussed

TA231429 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The Bethlehem mayor and a member of the town's council have asked the defense minister to rescind the order forbidding the transfer of funds from Jordan and other Arab countries to the territories. Minister Arens promised to consider the subject. This was discussed during the defense minister's visit to Bethlehem. Municipality officials told our correspondent Shalom Oren that they got the impression that the ban will in fact be cancelled.

The defense minister also toured the Samaria settlements this morning and promised to improve the security situation.

Arens Sees Decline in West Bank Terrorism

TA231057 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1050 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says a considerable decrease has occurred lately in the number of terrorist acts in Judaea and Samaria. Therefore, he said, one should not exaggerate descriptions of tension between Arabs and Jews in the region.

In a talk with our correspondent Yotam Yaqir, Moshe Arens also noted that not all of the Arab leaders in Judaea and Samaria are opposed to Jewish settlement in these regions.

West Bank Protests Husayn Anti-PLO Remarks

TA241004 Tel Aviv 'Al Hamishmar in Hebrew 24 Aug 83 p 8

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Public figures in the territories yesterday voiced their protest over King Husayn's declaration that unless the PLO overcomes its internal strife, it will no longer be considered the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians. They published their protest in *Al-Fajr*.

Halhul Mayor Hilmi Hanun said that King Husayn should clarify whether he made the remarks attributed to him. Deposed Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf said that the attempts by the Arab reactionaries and U.S. imperialism to harm the legitimacy of the PLO's exclusive role are doomed to fail. Deposed Hebron Mayor Mustafa an-Natshah has called on Jordan to adhere to the Rabat resolutions.

TAMI Secretariat Votes To Leave Coalition

TA231746 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1725 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] TAMI is leaving the coalition. In any case, this is the decision of the TAMI secretariat which was learned a few minutes ago. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav spoke with Minister Aharon Uzan right after the announcement was made.

[Nadav] Well, a 4-hour discussion ended a few minutes ago. TAMI decided to leave the coalition and, according to what Minister Uzan told us a few minutes ago, there is a very, very slim chance that TAMI will change its mind.

[Begin recording] [Nadav] Minister Uzan, what did the TAMI secretariat recommend?

[Uzan] The TAMI secretariat decided to convene the center next week and to recommend to it leaving the government and the coalition.

[Nadav] Does that mean that the government will fall?

[Uzan] Theoretically the government has 61 [Knesset members in the coalition]. It does not have to fall. However, I assume that it will not take long and it will indeed fall.

[Nadav] Is there anything that will change your mind?

[Uzan] Our mind would be changed if the whole discussion were to be reopened and if TAMI's demands were carefully listened to. And, if they want to listen and make the right decisions, then we will recommend a different decision to the center.

[Nadav] And this is what you will say to the prime minister in your meeting with him tomorrow?

[Uzan] Certainly. [end recording]

TAMI Leaders Meet Begin

TA240953 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0927 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] The meeting between the TAMI leaders and the prime minister ended a few minutes ago, and Minister Aharon Uzan said after the meeting: The prime minister asked that we leave the door open, and we have complied with that request. The meeting between the TAMI leaders and the prime minister was about 90-minutes long. At the end of the meeting, Minister Uzan noted that he is no more optimistic this morning as regards the future of the coalition than he was before.

The TAMI leaders understood, according to our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel, that the Cabinet's economic resolutions cannot be expected to be changed. He adds that in the conversation with Menahem Begin, the TAMI leaders refrained from submitting any ultimatum, but explained at great length their reservations regarding the Cabinet's economic measures. The parties agreed to maintain contacts in a bid to find a compromise.

Aridor Outlines Cabinet's Economic Measures

TA240750 Jerusalem The Jerusalem Post in English 24 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by Aharon Sittner]

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Yoram Aridor last night claimed victory in his struggle to raise IS55 billion with a two-pronged strategy of reducing state spending and mustering new income through taxation and various fees.

"It appears we have done it," a weary but confident Aridor told reporters hurriedly summoned to his office in Jerusalem. "To be precise, we have accounted so far not for IS55 billion but for 54,985 million. Of this sum, IS3 billion is still under negotiation between Education Minister Zvulun Hammer and myself. "On the other hand, another IS4 billion is almost in the bag — IS3 billion to be saved by cancelling the work holiday proclaimed for October 25, date of the municipal elections, and IS1 billion from a special fee we shall impose on all state-assisted but non-governmental organizations, based upon their budgets."

Aridor gave the following breakdown, approved by the Cabinet on Sunday, but not made public until yesterday (One item — cancellation of birth grants for mothers — was specifically denied by a Cabinet spokesman Sunday night, but "corrected" by Aridor last night.):

Agreed-upon cuts in the budgets of government ministries — IS30,785 million; cancellation of next October's candidate and party financing law — IS500 million; income taxes on a family's first two child allowances — IS1,900 million; National Insurance Institute cuts and new revenues (cancellation of birth grant, increased contributions from self-employed, reduced late-retirement benefits, increased penalties for late payments) — IS2,800 million; taxes and fees (travel tax and purchase taxes) —IS10 billion; a supplementary 1 percent budget cut from all ministries — IS6 billion; and school and university budget reductions (still under discussion) — IS3 billion.

Cancellation of party financing and the work holiday for the upcoming municipal elections on October 25 will require convening of the Knesset, since these two measures were written into law before the Knesset rose for its summer recess.

Further Reportage on UNIP Conference in Zambia

Kaunda Address

MB231015 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] President Kaunda has said that those who aspire to the party's leadership should be men and women who are prepared to work for the people and not for themselves. The president told the Ninth UNIP [United National Independence Party] General Conference that the party members have a serious responsibility to elect capable and [words indistinct] leaders at all levels. Dr Kaunda was emphasizing the crucial role that the party has to play in shaping and guiding the destiny of the nation in order to fulfill the people's aspirations. He said the state of the party depends on the caliber of its leadership at all levels, and advised all party members to elect people who would work for the party and not for those who would work for themselves to advance their own interests.

Mugabe Speech

MB221844 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says Zimbabwe and Zambia cannot afford the luxury of division in the face of South African aggression and sabotage. Comrade Mugabe told about 7,000 delegates attending the Ninth General Conference of Zambia's ruling United National Independence Party today that the two countries share a common geography, history, culture, and destiny. The prime minister said our enemy is a mulitple force, including all those imperialist and capitalist forces which back South Africa with arms and also diplomatic and economic support. He said the two countries should continue to cement their brotherhood and to forge new strategies for the independence of Namibia and the creation of a democratic order in South Africa.

Comrade Mugabe said Zambia is the (?rear) base of thousands of Zimbabwean freedom fighters and (?seven) combatants of the (Chinoia) battle of April 1966 crossed into Zimbabwe from that country. He said what remains to be achieved in the southern African region is economic liberation.

Machel Speech

MB240745 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The president of Frelimo and of the People's Republic of Mozambique has returned to Maputo from the Republic of Zambia, where he took part in the Ninth United National Independence Party General Conference. Addressing about 6,000 UNIP delegates this morning, he delivered a heartfelt message from the Mozambique people to the Zambian people.

President Samora Machel, who began by paying homage to this historic period in the lives of the Zambian people, said that by saluting the UNIP General Conference, the delegates to the conference, party militants, and the Zambian people, we associate ourselves with your efforts and express our certainty that these efforts will lead to an important victory for UNIP and the Zambian people.

Elsewhere in his speech, he referred to the deep friendship existing between UNIP and Frelimo, which goes back a long time. The friendship between Frelimo and UNIP dates from the time when Zambia was still a British colony. That was when UNIP supported the organization of the Mozambique Liberation Front. This friendship was further strengthened when UNIP, still fighting for the independence of Zambia, allowed the clandestine passage through their territory of Mozambicans to Tanganyika, where they joined the Mozambique Liberation Front. Even before the independence of Zambia, UNIP supported the clandestine passage of Frelimo fighters to open the Tete Province front. After independence, Zambia became a firm base in the struggle for the liberation of southern Africa.

President Samora Machel also spoke about the efforts of the Zambian people in support of the liberation movements of southern Africa. Under the personal leadership of President Kenneth Kaunda, the Zambian people rendered material, political, and diplomatic support to the struggle of the Mozambique people and regarded the liberation of Mozambique as a task which was also theirs. In this connection we shall not forget to mention that it was in Zambia where talks were held between Frelimo and the Portuguese Government for the independence of Mozambique. It was precisely in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, where the agreements which sanctified the victory of the Mozambique people over Portuguese colonialism were signed.

President Samora Machel underlined the role played by Zambia and Tanzania, which jointly carried out an exemplary coordination of resources and efforts to support the liberation forces of the region. Following the lucidity of these two countries's presidents, Julius Nyerere and Kenneth Kaunda, and the firmness of their people, the peoples of Zambia and Tanzania, an embryo for cooperation and understanding, which today constitutes the frontline states, was established. President Machel also said that the experience obtained following the building of the Tazara railway line was now being viewed as the first stage toward changing the dependent economic structure which imperialism established in order to exploit our region. We can say that the spirit which led to the building of Tazara has inspired the principles of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference founded in Lusaka in April 1980.

On cooperation between our country and Zambia, President Samora Machel spoke about the (Deni)-Cassacatiza road which directly link the Eastern Province of Zambia and the Tete Province in Mozambique. He said that is the spirit that should guide African cooperation toward a path totally opposed to the one which the colonialists tried to impose upon us. He said, and we quote: "It is this way alone that will enable us to link the cape to Cairo within the perspective of the liberation of our continent from domination and backwardness."

Elsewhere in his speech — which on several occasions was interrupted with applause and shouts of long live and the struggle continues as well as songs by children and choral groups present there, particularly a choral group which sang Khanimambo

Frelimo — President Samora Machel spoke about the role of David Kenneth Kaunda, the president of UNIP and of the Republic of Zambia, a role which made him known not only in southern Africa but in the world as a man committed to the struggle for the progress and well-being of his people and the liberation of the African Continent.

Then President Samora Machel referred to the need for national consolidation. He said that the consolidation of national unity and the mobilization and organization of our peoples in the fight for economic independence are common problems facing our parties. Organizing the defense of the fatherland, making the peasants and workers self-sufficient, creating employment and better living conditions, ensuring the availability of schools and hospitals for all the people, building roads and railways to promote trade, and establishing economic cooperation between states in the fight against dependence are also issues which face our parties and government.

Nearing the conclusion of his speech, President Samora Machel said that it is necessary to strengthen further the mutual understanding of our parties, governments, mass organizations, and our peoples, as well as to strengthen further their political, economic, military, cultural, technical, and scientific cooperation.

Obote-Machel Meeting

AB231135 Dakar PANA in English 1115 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Kampala, 23 August (UNA/PANA) — President Milton Obote now in Lusaka to attend the Ninth General Conference of Zambia's ruling party UNIP, has paid a courtesy call on President Samora Machel of Mozambique. Six presidents and one prime minister are attending the UNIP conference, at Mulungushi Rock authority. They include President Nyerere of Tanzania, Masire of Botswana, Habyalimana of Rwanda, Bagaza of Burundi and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

According to a UNA correspondent at Mulungushi, quoting sources at the UNIP secretariat, fourteen countries had been invited to the conference in order to foster good neighborliness.

Uganda's delegation to the 9th UNIP General Conference includes Mama Miria Obote, the minister of regional cooperation, Mr Sam Tewungwa, of information, Dr David Anyoti, of supplies, Dr Moses Apiliga, and officials from the ruling Uganda People's Congress.

Mugabe Departure

MB231016 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The Zimbabwe prime minister, Robert Mugabe, left for home last night after the official opening of the [United National Independence Party] General Conference.

Mr Mugabe was seen off at Lusaka International Airport by the Zimbabwe high commissioner to Zambia, (Ken Muyake), the commissioner of police, (Henry Mutanga), and several officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Receives Tunisian Foreign Minister

LD231929 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received the Tunisian foreign affairs minister this afternoon. Caid es-Sebsi conveyed to him a message from President Bourguiba. The general secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the Tunisian ambassador in Algiers were present at the meeting.

LIBYA

Al-'Ubaydi Meets With Iran's Velayati 23 Aug

LD231426 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Meetings of the joint Libyan-Iranian committee opened this morning at the meeting hall in Al-Kabir Hotel in Tripoli to (?identify) aspects of cooperation between Jamahiriyah and Iran. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, and on the Iranian side by Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister.

IRNA Report

LD232127 Tehran IRNA in English 2004 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Tripoli, Aug. 23, irna — The Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati who is currently here heading a high ranking delegation, met and conferred with Libyan Foreign Liaison and Oil Secretary 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi and Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur, here today. Dr. Velayati who arrived here yesterday in a meeting with the Libyan oil secretary, discussed issues related to OPEC. During the meeting, which was also attended by the Iranian Oil Ministry's deputy, Dr. Honardust it was decided that the Libyan oil secretary would travel to Iran in a near future to follow up the discussions.

Meanwhile the Iranian foreign affairs minister and his accompanying delegation held talks with the Libyan Foreign Liaison this morning during which both sides stressed the need for greater unity amongst Muslims in order to counter the global infidelity. Al-'Ubaydi, commenting on the Islamic Revolution of Iran said it has continued to stand on the side of oppressed countries and its Muslim allies, despite the unjust war and numerous plots of imperialism.

Dr. Velayati told his Libyan counterpart that at a time while the world blasphemy was standing against Islam and Muslims with the objective of weakening them, the Muslim countries should use their efforts to revive glory of Islam. Furthermore, he added, the Muslim countries should further unite their ranks in dealing with the plots of the Zionists. As for the issue of Palestine, he said it was the biggest problem of the Muslims. The Zionist regime, he said, by attacking south Lebanon, wanted to shatter the resistance showed by the member countries of the Steadfastness Front vis-a-vis the Camp David accord. Meanwhile, the attack took place with the help of the reactionary governments of the region which have been paving the way for further progress of the accord he added.

The Iranian foreign affairs minister, heading a high ranking economic, political and cultural delegation is touring some 11 countries.

Tripoli Radio Criticizes Egyptian, Sudanese Statements

LD231528 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Station commentary]

[Text]Statements made yesterday by the foreign ministers of the Egyptian and Sudanese regimes reflect those regimes' absolute allegiance to American imperialism and their total transformation into pawns serving U.S. policy and the aggressive terrorist plans implemented by Reagan's administration against the Chadian people and the Libyan Arab people. In their statements the two ministers repeate imperialist claims about Libyan intervention in Chad and about this alleged Libyan intervention representing aggression against Hissein Habre's clique, which is backed by Reagan's administration.

These statements express one viewpoint, the viewpoint of their masters in the U.S. Administration, which has subjugated these two regimes to its complete control. These two regimes consider the territories of Egypt and Sudan as fair game and have made them spheres of influence for the U.S. forces and an arena for provocative military exercises. They have turned the Arab region and Africa into a area of international conflict. These two regimes have no right to speak in the name of Africa and to level threats against it because they are linked with the Zionist enemy who occupied Arab territories and who is cooperating strategically with the racist regime in South Africa. The two regimes, the Egyptian and Sudanese, have isolated themselves from Africa by recognizing the Zionist enemy, who is in alliance with the racists in South Africa. They are spreading a series of falsifications and lies about an alleged Libyan threat to Africa in order to cover up the real threat facing the African Continent from the Zionist enemy, from U.S. imperialism, and from the racist regime in South Africa.

The hysterical statements made by the Egyptian and Sudanese regimes are nothing but a cover for their aggressive actions against the Arab nation and Africa. They have no right to speak about the problems of the African peoples so long as Egyptian and Sudanese territories are fair game for imperialist forces and so long as they continue to recognize the enemy of the Arab nation and Africa.

It would have been more fitting for these two regimes to condemn the American and French intervention in Chad instead of repeating the accusations that Libya is intervening there. Libya has repeatedly announced that it has not intervened in Chad but that it recognizes a legitimate government which emerged from the Lagos agreement recognized by the African governments. The agreement confirmed that legitimacy does not belong to Habre, who is only a mutinous minister of defense.

MAURITANIA

French Cooperation-Development Minister Arrives

AB231305 Paris AFP in French 0959 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Nouakchott, 23 Aug (AFP) — Christian Nucci, the French minister in charge of cooperation and development, arrived in Nouakchott Monday night for a 24-hour working visit to Mauritania. The French minister was welcomed by Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Major Ahmed Ould Minnih.

In a short statement to the press on arrival, Mr Nucci said that he came to Nouakchott to have talks with Mauritanian officials on bilateral cooperation and on issues of general interest. The French minister described French-Mauritanian relations as "good" and stressed the French Government's desire to develop them further.

The French minister is to be received on Tuesday morning by head of state Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala and by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. He is to leave Nouakchott late in the afternoon for Dakar.

Meets Haydala, Comments

AB231725 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The head of state received this morning in audience Mr Christian Nucci, the French minister for cooperation and development, now on a working visit to our country. Present at the audience was Major Ahmed Ould Minnih, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

On his arrival yesterday evening in Nouakchott where he was welcomed by Maj Ahmed Ould Minnih, Mr Nucci described for the national press the relations between Mauritania and France:

[Begin recording][Nucci] What I know about the relations? They are good. Concerning cooperation relations between the two countries, well, things are going well. It is certain that all is not as each of us would wish because Mauritania has its problems and we have ours. We both face the problems of the world economic crisis, but we are trying our best to pool our resources in order to find solutions to the most pressing problems which are, above all, those of development that will enable men and women to be able to live and work in their country as they wish, while at the same time respecting the independence of each country. [end recording]

In response to a question on whether the agreements signed between the two countries by his predecessor have been implemented, the minister said:

[Begin recording] [Nucci] This is a visit in an altogether special context. Of course, I wish to hold talks with the authorities of your country, with his excellency the president, in order to review a certain number of documents and to discuss current political issues. But as far as the practical aspect of cooperation is concerned, I intend to review this with my collaborators in order to learn of the agreements signed and those implemented after signing and to see to it that those that were lagging behind are pushed ahead during subsequent stages or perhaps find some new formula that can reactivate cooperation between our two countries. [end recording]

Haydala Receives French, Malian Ministers

AB240920 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee of National Salvation and head of state, granted an audience yesterday to visiting officials of brotherly and friendly countries. He received Christian Nucci, French minister of cooperation and development. Following the audience, Mr Nucci said he conferred with the head of state on matters of mutual concern.

The head of state also received Malian Foreign Minister Alioune Blondin Beye, who arrived in our country yesterday. The Malian minister said later that he conveyed a verbal message from Malian President General Moussa Traore to Lt Col Haydala.

MOROCCO

Tunisian Minister Brings Bourguiba Message

LD232138 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Aug 83

[text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi arrived in Morocco this evening with a letter from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba to His Majesty King Hassan II. At Sala Airport VIP lounge he made the following statement to the press:

[Begin recording] I am visiting fraternal Morocco with a message from the great fighter His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba to His Majesty King Hassan II. This visit is part of the consulations established long ago, thank God, between his majesty and His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba. It indicates, if anything at all, the level of distinguished Tunisian-Moroccan relations that were established on the basis of mutual respect and genuine desire to strengthen and develop these relations in all fields.

Every observer of political relations in this area knows that since the beginning of this year the Greater Arab Maghreb area has witnessed moves in all directions and at various levels between the leaders of the states of this area. Herein lies the proof that the idea of the Greater Arab Maghreb is today approaching fruition, and it is the responsibility of the leaders of the area states to step up consultations and visits and exchanges of opinion to prepare a suitable atmosphere for building this Greater Arab Maghreb for which we have been working since we were children and and for which the forces of the previous generation and our generation wre mobilized. It is fortunate hat all leaders of the Greater Arab Maghreb are today working to establish his structure.

Finally, we have listened to the very emotional words uttered by His Majesty King Hassan II on this subject, and this tends to make us even more convinced that we are working along the right path.

I am very happy to be in my second homeland, fraternal Morocco, and to meet my brother and friend M'hamed Boucetta. It will undoubtedly be an opportunity to exchange views with him on the main issues of interest to the two sides, at both the international and Arab levels, as well as at the level of the area and of our bilateral relations. [end recording]

The minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, the Tunisian ambassador to Morocco, and several other personalities were at the airport to welcome the Tunisian minister.

MAP Reports Moroccan-Libyan Talks on Mining, Energy

LD231507 Rabat MAP in English 1214 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Rabat Aug 23 (MAP) — Morocco and Libya are exploring possibilities of developing energetic and mining products particularly through Morocco's import of Libyan oil in exchange of Moroccan products. At a meeting here Monday, between visiting Libyan minister of economy and light industry, Mr Musa Ahmad Abu Furaywah and Mr Moussa Saadi, Moroccan minister of energy and mines, the two sides decided to promote bilateral cooperation in this area in line with the two countries' wish expressed in the joint communique issued at the end of the joint Moroccan-Libyan commission that was recently held in Tripoli.

The two ministers also discussed the possibility of participation of the Moroccan "Bureau de Recherches et de Participation Minieres" (BRPM) in carrying out prospection works in Libya.

U.S. Congressmen Conduct Talks in Rabat

LD231543 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Rabat, Aug 23 (MAP) — The American delegation of congressmen which is on a two-day working and information visit to Morocco held here Monday a series of meetings with a number of Moroccan officials. Thus, the American delegation, led by Mr Howard Volpe, liberal representative of Michigan and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the U.S. House of Representatives, was received on Monday morning by Moroccan Premier Maati Bouabid who explained to his interlocutors the internal situation in Morocco, the evolution of the Sahara issue, as well as Morocco's policy regarding Africa, the Middle East, the Islamic World, and the Third World in general.

Later on, the American delegation conferred with Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs, M'hamed Boucetta. Talks dwelt on the political life in Morocco, the democratic process, and the efforts stepped up by the government to develop the country.

Regarding the Sahara question, Mr. Boucetta reiterated Morocco's attachment to the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity related to the organizing of a referendum in the Moroccan southern provinces, and made a historical account on the occupation of the country by foreign powers and on the progressive liberation process. After he recalled the different phases that led to the liberation of the country, Mr Boucetta pointed out that the so-called Polisario Front which was only created in 1974 was aimed at destabilizing the region. He finally indicated that the Moroccan people would take into account friendly countries' viewpoints regarding the Sahara issue.

In the afternoon, the U.S. congressmen were received by the speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives Dey Ould Sidi Baba who made a detailed report on the question of the Sahara and on Moroccan-American relations.

The head of the U.S. delegation, Mr Volpe, on his part stated that this visit shows the friendship existing between Morocco and the United States, adding that the delegation came to Morocco "to get informed about a number of things". He then pointed out that taking a decision on the oncoming referendum in the Sahara was not of the United States' scope. "The United States is only interested by a peaceful settlement and by cooperation among the states of the region," he said.

Mr Volpe also indicated that the U.S. delegation was fully aware of the Moroccan people's cohesion and unanimity regarding the issue.

At the end of these meetings, Mr Volpe told the press that talks had centered on a number of issues and particularly on the Sahara question that is of vital concern to Morocco. He added that they have also discussed the economic difficulties that Morocco is facing, his readiness to endeavour so that the United States provide expressing Morocco with more effective assistance. [sentence as received]

Regarding the Sahara question, Mr Volpe indicated that "with respect to the Sahara question," Mr Wolpe said, "we have got a strong information about Morocco's willingness to organize the referendum and that is from the perspective of the United States and the Congress perhaps the most important regional question of all."

Mr Volpe finally stressed his country's neutrality in this issue outlining that the conflict must be settled for the re-establishment of peace and stability in the region.

Briefs

New Political Weekly — Rabat, 21 aug (MAP) — The first issue of the French language weekly magazine *Risalat al-Ummah* (Message of the Nation) was published today in the name of the Constitutional Union Party [Hizb al-Ittihad ad-Dusturi]. Party leader Maati Bouabid stressed in an article in the *Risalt al-Ummah*, which is published by the party, that the magazine *Le Message* would stand by *Risalat al-Ummah* so as to provide readers with selected and objective information, and also to acquaint them with the stances of the Constitutional Union Party and to defend these stances in the field of international politics and economic choices. [Excerpt] [Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Aug 83 LD]

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Receives Nigerian Leader's Message

EA231214 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0400 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of COPWE, commander in chief of the Revolutionary Army, has received a message from His Excellency President Shehu Shagari, leader of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, yesterday afternoon. In a ceremony held at the Grand Palace, the message from His Excellency President Shagari was presented to Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam by His Excellency Professor Ishaya Audu, foreign minister of Nigeria. President Shehu Shagari's message concers the situation in Chad and the Western Sahara issue, in particular the implementation of the resolutions of the 19th OAU heads of state summit and his country's efforts and concern regarding this issue.

KENYA

President Receives Numayri Message on Chad

EA231638 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today at State House, Nairobi, received a special message from President Ja'far Numayri of Sudan. The message was delivered to President Moi by the Sudanese secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Hashim 'Uthman. The message referred to the situation in Chad. President Moi and President Numayri share identical views on how to solve the problem in Chad. Sudan and Kenya recognize Mr Hissein Habre as the de facto leader of Chad. The two leaders have called on the international community to intervene with a view to solving the problem in Chad.

Mr 'Uthman and the Sudanese Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. (Ibrahim Ayub), were escorted to State House by the Minister for foreign Affairs, Dr Robert Ouko, and his permanent secretary, Mr Japheth Shamalla. The function was also attended by the chief secretary, Mr Jeremiah Kiereini.

SUNA Quotes Numayri Envoy

JN231755 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Nairobi, Aug 23 (SUNA) — Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi today received a written message from President Ja'far Numayri dealing with situation in Chad and the Sudanese position regarding the issue. Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Hashim 'Uthman who delivered the message affirmed, following his meeting with President Moi, that Sudan was concerned about Chad in view of its proximity and the fact that developments in Chad have positive and negative impacts on the Sudan. He said the first Libyan intervention in Chad has resulted in great numbers of Chadians entering the Sudan in search of peace. This in addition to Libyan air force violation of Sudanese airspace on several occasions and the strafing of some Sudanese villages. There was also an attempt to blow up the Chadian Embassy in Khartoun and the oil depot he said. The second libyan intervention in Chad, 'Uthman said, was prompted by its ambitions particularly for the uranium rich Chadian Aouzou strip.

He pronounced the solid Sudanese stance toward Chad which is based on the recongition of the legitimate government of Chadian President Hissein Habre whose leadership is recognized by the Organization of Africna Unity (OAU) and the nonaligned conference. Sudan opposes any intervention in African countries' internal affairs in protection of African legitimacy and in consistency with the OAU and the United Nations charters both of which have been trampled upon by Libya when it supported the rebels in Chad, 'Uthman said. He called on the OAU 12-man committee on Chad to meet and discuss the Chadian problem. Finally 'Uthman hailed and praised the developed Sudanese-Kenyan relations.

Hashim 'Uthman arrived in Kenya from France yesterday in the context of a Sudanese diplomatic initiative designed to clarify Sudanese viewpoint on the Chadian conflict. His first leg has taken him to Chad before proceeding to France. 'Uthman will leave here for Ethiopia tomorrow, Wednesday, carrying a message to OAU chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam before concluding his tour of Somalia and Uganda.

SOMALIA

Foreign Minister on Joint Maneuvers, Ethiopia

GF231844 Jidda Al-Madinih in Arabic 20 Aug 83 p 21

[Exclusive statement by Foreign Affairs Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre to *Al-Madinah* Correspondent Ahmad Basirdah]

[Excerpt] His excellency the minister welcomed the idea of a direct dialogue with Ethiopia and said that such a dialogue can be held only after the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Somali territory. He said: We cannot agree to a dialogue while some Somali territory is occupied by the Ethiopians. We welcome a dialogue through the OAU. We have no conditions regarding this point. What we want first is the withdrawal from Somali territory. In addition, there is the western Somalia issue and this issue can be discussed by those concerned. Somalia has no mandate over anyone. Abdurahman Jama Barre added that development and progress cannot be achieved so long as there are wars which exhaust the limited energies of countries. We, in Somalia, more than ever call for understanding, cooperation, and fraternity on the African Continent.

The foreign minister condemned the outcry on the joint manuevers which will be conducted in his country. He said: It is regrettable to hear the denunciations of these limited military maneuvers. Let me say that these are technical maneuvers, because Somali troops should cope with progess and utilize the modern technology available to the U.S. Army. These maneuvers have no strategic dimensions. We did not and will not allow anyone to use Somali territory against anyone else. Although some countries allow major forces to establish bases and use their land, Somalia will not allow anything like that, because we work in accordance with principle and conscience. And how do those

people do what is forbidden to others? There are dozens of Soviet bases in Ethiopia and other neighboring countries. In return for that, there are simple and limited maneuvers that are aimed at making advantage of the progress achieved by friends in the region. The objective of these forces is not Somalia alone, but is to reach other areas in the region, particularly the oil-producing areas, which the Soviet Union is trying to reach. Somalia called on and is still calling on friends and brothers to stand alongside it in its war against Ethiopian colonialism and the ambitions of other countries.

He added that the situation on the battlefronts now has become more dangerous and that the enemy will not stop because it is supported by the Soviets. The Americans are our friends and they have to help us. This is necessitated by humanitarian duty and common interests. The problem does not lie in giving the Americans facilities, but the Soviet Union views the issue as if it were an American attempt to occupy the countries of those who are criticized and to oust their entities which were established against the wishes of the masses. Sooner or later, those people will know that their views are wrong and that Somalia is a nonaligned state that wants to live in security, stability, and peace. However, we absolutely will not renounce our national sovereignty. In addition, there are the people of western Somalia, who have been independent throughout history. We are not demanding more that what is provided in international law on the right of self-determination. Stemming from its principled position toward these people, Somalia will support them until they achieve their independence in their lands.

We have many times and repeatedly affirmed that there is continuous Ethiopian aggression supported by the Soviets and Cubans against Somalia. The current situation is very critical. Therefore, Somalia should be supported in its just war against the tyrannical forces which want to undermine Somalia's sovereignty. A few days ago, Ethiopia launched an attack against a small area on the border and occupied it. But, Somali troops, with their deep belief and bravery, recaptured this area. The situation is still very critical. Somalia cannot neglect any part of its territory and will not abandon its national policy. He said: The thing we want our friends and brothers to know is that Somalia is facing a fierce and unequaled war. Ethiopia is supported by 20,000 Soviet and Cuban soldiers. By defending itself, Somalia is actually defending the free world and is standing against communist ambitions.

TANZANIA

CPSU Delegation Led by Bogomyakov Arrives

EA232003 Dar es Salaam in English to East Africa 1000 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Dar es Salaam — The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, CPSU, wants to enhance its relationship with Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM] for the benefit of the Tanzanian and Russian people. The CPSU Central Committee member and first secretary of the Tyumen Regional Committee, Ndugu Bogomyakov, said this on his arrival in Dar es Salaam early today, heading a five-man CPSU delegation for a week-long visit to Tanzania.

Ndugu Bogomyakov remarked that Chama Cha Mapinduzi and the CPSU had a lot in common and the political alliance provided a firm basis of cooperation in various fields between the USSR and the Tanzania Governments. He added that the two parties also stood for justice and peace in the struggle against imperialism.

The CPSU delegation, scheduled to visit coast region today and party branches in Zanzibar tomorrow, is in the country at the invitation of CCM.

Barter Trade Agreement Signed With GDR

EA221847 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam — Tanzania and the GDR have agreed to introduce barter trade with immediate effect. The minister of state for planning and economic affairs, Professor Kighoma Malima, said this on arrival in Dar Es Salaam today from Berlin, where he attended a 5-day second session of the joint commission for cooperation.

He said: Under the barter trade system which is a new area of (?technical) cooperation agreed at the talks, the GDR would export to Tanzania various commodities such as medical equipment, bicycles, dyes for textile industries, drugs for livestock development, and soap. Tanzania would export to GDR coffee, cotton, tea, and tobacco, while the GDR will supply Tanzania with some 10,000 bicycles beginning this year.

Ndugu Malima said the barter trade agreement had been concluded because Tanzania lacked foreign exchange and that its efficient implementation would be an incentive to Tanzanian peasants to improve productivity since most of the foodcrops will have a market.

Tanzania has similar trade agreements with Mozambique and Bulgaria.

Prime Minister Returns From Overseas Visits

EA232009 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The prime minister, Ndugu Edward Sokoine, returned home today from Switzerland. During a 1-month tour Ndugu Sokoine visited the USSR and Cuba before going to Switzerland. While in Cuba, Ndugu Sokoine led the Tanzanian delegation to the 30th anniversary celebrations of the invasion of Moncada, a stronghold of puppet Batista and his oppressive regime, by Cuban fighters under President Castro.

During the anniversary celebrations, Ndugu Sokoine was accompanied by the minister for information and culture, Ndugu Daudi Mwakawago. After his visit to Cuba, the prime minister went to Switzerland for treatment.

CAMEROON

Presidential Decrees Appoint Ministers, Governors

Cabinet List

AB221610 Paris AFP in English 1554 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Here is the full list of the Cameroonian Government following today's reshuffle:

Interim Prime Minister and Agriculture:	Luc Ayant
Defence:	Gilbert Andze Tsoungui
Relations With Parliament:	Emmanuel Egbe Tabi
Justice:	Andre Ngongang Ouandji
Youth and Sports:	Ibrahim Mbombo Njoya
Foreign Affairs:	Filix Tonye Mbog
Deputy Foreign Minister:	Oumarou Aminou
Territorial Administration:	Jean Fouman Akame
Finance:	Etienne Ntsama
Education:	Rene Ze Nguele
Labour and Welfare:	Daniel Kamgueu
Health:	Hubert Nkoulou
Administrative Reform:	Christian Songwe Bongwa
Agriculture:	Sadou Hayatou
Planning and Industry:	Gibering Rol Alima
Trade:	Tori Limangana
Public Administration:	Youssoufa Daouda
Social Affairs:	Mrs Delphine Tsanga
Posts and Telecomms:	Robert Mbella Mbappe
Mines and Energy:	Philemon Yang
Urbanism and Housing:	Babale Abdoulaye
Transport:	Albert Ngome Kome
Information and Culture:	Francois Sengat Kuoh
Equipment:	Thomas Dakayi Kamga
Special Missions:	William Eteki Mboumoua and Georges Ngango

Junior Ministers:

Territorial Administration:	Joseph Chongwan Awunti
Education:	Mrs Orhy Njeuma
Finance:	Pierre Hele
Agriculture:	Solomon Mfor Gwei
Planning and Industry:	Mrs Elisabeth Tankeu
Trade:	Michael Namaya

Provincial Governors Named

AB230910 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Excerpt] A presidential decree signed today appoints Amadou Ali delegate general to the National Gendarmerie. Another presidential decree appoints Martin Mbarga Nguele as delegate general for national security while General Pierre Semengue has been appointed chief of the Armed Forces Task Force.

Another presidential decree signed today appoints Ibrahima Wadjirie as delegate general for tourism. For the rest of the administrative reorganization, here is Eno Chris:

By a presidential decree signed today, the following have been named governors of the provinces of the United Republic of Cameroon.

Governor of the Extreme North Province:	Mr Noel Ekono
Governor of the Northern Province:	Som Tchouassi Yokoumtoa Joseph
Governor of Adamaoua Province:	Amadou Malloum
Governor of the Eastern Province:	Haman Said
Governor of the Littoral Province:	Samuel Kwaifom Pefura
Governor of the Western Province:	Conrad Eyoum Essombe
Governor of the Southwest Province:	David Abouem Atchoyi
Governor of the Northwest Province:	John Andella
Governor of the Central Province:	Benoit Mendze
Governor of the Southern Province:	Luc Loe

Another decree defines the administrative divisions of the new provinces: Mayo-Banyo Division with headquarters at Banyo; Djerem Division, headquarters, Tibati; Bere Division, headquarters, Meiganga; Velo Division, headquarters, Ngaoundere; Faro and Deo Division, headquarters, Tignere; Benoue Devision, headquarters, Garoua; Faro Division, headquarters, Poli; Mayo Rei Division, headquarters, Tcholere.

Messages of Support, Congratulations for Biya

AB231940 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Motions of support from all parts of the country have been sent to the State House congratulating President Paul Biya on the emergency measures taken to safeguard the security of the republic. The emergency measures announced by the head of state in a nationwide broadcast yesterday include a Cabinet reshuffle which dismissed Prime Minister Bello Bouba Maigari and Armed Forces Minister Maikano Abdoulaye.

The population and party militants of the various provinces have sent motions of support to President Paul Biya congratulating him for his commitment to his oath of office in which he pledged to safeguard the national Constitution and institutions, as well as the integrity and security of the national territory.

The population of the Central Province thanked President Biya who, for the first time in the history of Cameroon, appealed to

the high sense of responsibility and maturity of the Cameroonian people in handling the present threat to national security. The motions of support follow an announcement by the head of state yesterday that state security forces have arrested certain individuals who attempted to undermine the security of the state. He said those arrested have confessed and that sanctions commensurate to their criminal activities shall be taken against them according to the law.

CHAD

Minister Cited on Libyan Base South of Faya-Largeau

AB231250 Paris AFP in English 1242 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Ndjamena, Aug 23 (AFP) — Libyan forces have set up an advance base 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of the northern town of Faya-Largeau on the road to Koro-Toro and Ndjamena, Information Minister Soumaila Mahamat said here today. Mr Soumalia said large-scale troop movement had also been spotted south east of Faya-Largeau on the road to Fada, while "several" battalions of tanks were seen in the advanced based to the south. Mr Soumalia said that 5,000 Libyans were in this area in support of former President Goukouni Oueddei.

Libya Preparing for Offensive

JN231900 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Ndjamena, Aug. 23 (SUNA) — Chadian information minister announced here today that Libya, with its current military buildup, is confirming its preparation to launch a new attack against the strongholds of the Chadian National Armed Forces at the eastern parts to annex all Chad.

He said that huge military mobilizations and great number of troops and tanks have been detected between Faya-Largeau and Fada. He added that Libyan forces, seen 80 kms south of Faya-Largeau, are now in a reconnaisance operation but constitute a frontal base formed of men and equipment. The Chadian minister pointed out that about 5,000 Libyan soldiers were actually in Chad, besides those whom they were forced to fight in Chad..

He added that Libya could be stopped only by the power of weapon and Al-Qadhdhafi didn't know the logic and he has a great desire to annex Chad. Al-Qadhdhafi stopped attacking Chad in the last few days not because of the condemnations launched by entire international public opinion, but for tactical reasons, he added.

The minister called on France to side with Chad more strongly. He said: We look forward for a French interference with troops and airforce not only to repulse the attack but to enable us to restore the Chadian lands occupied by Libya as well.

Asked about whether the government forces are able to counter any attack, the Chadian minister responded positively. We had restored Faya-Largeau, thanks to our determination and the French aid, but we abandoned it due to the lack of air cover and because the aid came too late, the minister explained. He added that the government troops withdrew from Faya-Largeau to preserve the lives of the civilians.

Further on Libyan Advance; Skirmish Reported

LD240832 Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Excerpt] in Chad, columns of Libyan tanks are reported to be moving toward the south from Faya-Largeau; they are reported to be heading in the direction of the defense lines of the government forces. Yesterday evening, a skirmish occurred in the region of Oum Chalouba, 350 km southeast of Faya-Largeau, between the forces of Hissein Habre and the supporters of Goukouni. This engagement is not reported to have been very important; it cannot be interpreted as the prelude to a resumption of hostilities on the eastern front.

However, the skirmish did occur in a region situated only about 100 km from Arada, the first position occupied by French soldiers of the Manta detachment. This is the first military incident to have been reported over the past 10 days, which have been characterized by a lull throughout the front.

Western Observers Cited on Military Situation

JN231456 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 23 Aug (SUNA) — Diplomatic observers in Ndjamena have said that the forces of Chadian President Hissein Habre and the Libyan-backed rebels are conducting separate patrols in northern Chad. However, these observers ruled out any major attack by one side against the other.

Meanwhile, Western diplomatic sources in Chad said that Libya has sent fresh troop and weapon reinforcements to the northern strategic city of Faya-Largeau. These sources added that the deployment of the French troops and aircraft in the areas under the control of the Chadian Government forces has apparently prevented any Libyan advance toward the south.

Paris Interviews French Commander in Abeche

LD201252 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Excerpts] In Chad, the situation is apparently calm. Less than 36 hours ago, our special correspondent Ulysse Gosset became one of the first journalists to reach Abeche, 700 km northeast of Ndjamena. As you know, part of the French contingent under the command of Colonel Ribeston is stationed in Abeche. Ulysse Gosset managed to meet Col Ribeston, who told him that there were few Chadian troops to train in Abeche. Here is this exclusive interview.

[Begin recording] [Ribeston] There are not many Chadians in the region at the moment. Most of them are on the northern front, in the Oum Chalouba region in the northeast and in the region of Salal, Koro-Toro in the north, which somewhat slows our training mission.

[Gosset] One could say that you are the bridgehead of the French Army in eastern Chad, is this not true?

[Ribeston] Yes, quite. We have certainly been that at the start, somewhat reinforced now. We are the bridgehead, immediately behind the lines of our Chadian comrades. For the moment, in Abeche, (?there is no one else) north of the Abeche zone.

[Gosset] Do you plan to go further north toward Oum Chalouba?

[Ribeston] I personally do not plan to, but I think that we might direct our efforts in that direction because French radio is speaking of it. There are some problems there and if we have to help the Chadians, perhaps we might have to go up to the frontline — I do not know — in any case, slightly behind the frontline in order to back them up. I am thinking of helping repair broken down vehicles, military equipment, and giving medical assistance — all these things for which they are not very well-equipped and in which they face problems. For the moment, we are in Abeche. If (?we have to go) to the north, I believe we will have the same orders unless we are taken directly to the contact lines, in which case the mission will change. For the moment, however, the mission remains unchanged: to help the (?Chadian) forces.

[Gosset] How do you describe the enemy when talking to your troops?

[Ribeston] I ask my FANT [Chadian National Armed Forces] comrades questions. When they discuss prisoners and armed clashes, it appears that few Chadians belong to Goukouni. The prisoners taken everywhere, or those injured or dead, belong to the Islamic Legion, that is Sudanese, Nigerians, Ethiopians, and Somalis. The FANT personnel speak of all nationalities but very few Chadians. [end recording]

GHANA

Foreign Ministry Dismisses 69 Officials

AB240730 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced the dismissal and retirement of 69 officials of the ministry for various offenses. These include financial irregularities and misuse of diplomatic bag. The other offenses are gross inefficiency, and indiscipline, and desertion of post. A statement by the ministry said among those affected are 16 principal secretaries and principal assistant secretaries.

Former President Before Investigations Committee

AB231850 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Ex-President Limann has appeared before the National Investigations Committee to give evidence on the purchase of spraying machines for the CMB [Cocoa Marketing Board] during his tenure of office. The committee is investigating reports that the chief executive of the CMB, Dr Kwame Gyamfi, is involved in acts with the intent of sabotaging the national economy.

Dr Limann told the committee that sometime in 1981, Alhaji Mumuni Bawumia, then chairman of the Interim Management Committee of the CMB, alerted him that in the disbursement of a 10 million pound German loan facility to the CMB, he had awarded the contract for the purchase of spraying machines to Mr J. Djaba, a top CMB financier. However, Dr Kwame Gyamfi, then a member of the Interim Management Committee and now the chief executive, had alerted him by diverting part of the contract to Mr Ayeh-Kumi and Nana Okutwer Bekoe. Dr Limann said he convened a meeting at the Castle where he confronted all the parties involved. Nana Okutwer Bekoe told the meeting that Dr Gyamfi had previously approached him to act as a frontman for a German company dealing in Wambo spraying machines. Nana Okutwer Bekoe, however, rejected the offer on account of his bitter experiences in similar deals during the Nkrumah regime.

Dr Limann further stated that Dr Gyamfi, who could not challenge Nana Okutwer Bekoe's allegations, rather indicated that he, Dr Gyamfi, had a prior commitment to Mr Ayeh-Kumi in respect of the spraying machines. Investigations have revealed that the contract was eventually shared between Mr Ayeh-Kumi and Mr Djaba with inflated invoice. The national Investigations Committee has accordingly asked Mr Djaba, Mr Ayeh-Kumi, and Alhaji Mumuni Bawumia to appear before it within 7 days.

GUINEA-BISSAU

President Appoints New Foreign Minister

LD232308 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2230 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpt] A report reaching us a short while ago from the capital of Guinea-Bissau says that President Joao Bernardo Vieira tonight named Fidelis Cabral Almada as the country's new foreign minister to replace Samba Lamine Mane, dismissed on Saturday due to grave irregularies.

Lisbon Reports National Security Council Created

LD240052 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 0001 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] In Guinea-Bissau on Tuesday, the Council of the Revolution set up a National Security Council made up of President Bernardo Vieira as its chairman and of [Prime Minister] Victor Saude Maria, [Deputy Armed Forces Minister] Iafai Camara, [Rural Development Minister] Paulo Correia, and [Deputy National Security Minister] Jose Pereira, the state radio announced tonight, quoting an official communique. Other members of the new body are to be appointed later by President Vieira.

President Suspends Armed Forces Chief

LD232155 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] A report newly arrived says that Guinea-Bissau President Bernardo Vieira today suspended First Commander Joao da Silva from his duties as chief of the country's Armed Forces General Staff. Announcing this, Guinea-Bissau's official radio said that the chief of the Armed Forces General Staff was accused of conduct unbecoming of and incompatible with the duties of a senior officer.

President Bernardo Vieira today referred to the dismissals of the members of his government carried out on Saturday, saying that instances of sudden enrichment are to be referred to courts of justice. Addressing the closing session of the first national meeting of young cadres, organized by Amilcar Cabral African Youth, he asked: How is it possible for a minister earning 2,000 contos — equivalent to 5,000 Portuguese contos — to have banking accounts abroad with their cheques worth thousands of contos circulating worldwide. How is it possible, he asked the audience, without citing names of any leaders or officials.

On Saturday President Bernardo Vieira, on the proposal of Prime Minister Vitor Saude Maria, sacked his foreign minister and the

secretary of state for fisheries, and suspended the public works minister, accusing them of grave irregularities but without specifying them.

General Election To Be Held Before End of Year

LD232244 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Guinea-Bissau President Bernardo Vieira said today that he would convene a general election before the end of the year. Legislative and presidential elections in Guinea-Bissau were originally due to be held last year.

NIGER

Iranian Foreign Minister Visits Country

Meets Foreign, Planning Ministers

GF191640 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Niger, Aug. 19, IRNA — In the first round of talks between the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and his Niger's counterpart, Daouda Diallo Thursday, the two sides discussed the mode of maintaining strong ties in such fields as politics economics and culture between the two Muslim countries.

Niger's foreign minister while reiterating the strengthening of bilateral ties called for the signing of a memoranda of understanding at the conclusion of their meeting. He also outlined the political stance of his country to his Iranian counterpart.

In this meeting the Iranian foreign minister pointing to the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards expansion of ties with Third World and African countries which, he said, as pulse of Third World countries, especially Niger whose people were Muslim termed the ties vitally important. Velayati said that the independence struggle the African people had undertaken was to eradicate superpowers monopoly. He reiterated Iran's solidarity and cooperation with the people of Africa in confronting exploiters.

In an another meeting with Niger's Planning Minister Annou Mahamane, both sides viewed issues of bilateral interest in the field of commerce, economics and culture. Niger's planning minister in this meeting with Velayati, pointed to the history of Islam in his country and called for the maintainance of the political, economic and cultural ties with Third World countries. He also upheld the cooperative ties between the two countries.

Velayati, at the conclusion of his meeting remarked that the Islamic revolution of Iran was an embodiment of Islam and sought to foster revolution among Muslim nations free of dependence on East or West. He said that the uniqueness of the ideology of the revolution and the Islamic government in Iran was the expansion multilateral ties with Third World countries, especially the Muslim nations and that the Islamic Republic was ready to put at the disposal of these countries its technical knowledge.

Dr. Velayati is heading a delegation which is on an 11 nation African-Asian tour which arrived in Niamey, the capital city of Niger Thursday August 18.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD192141 Tehran IRNA in English 1935 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Niamey, Niger, Aug 19 (IRNA) — The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on the second day of his visit to Niger met with the Niger's prime minister, Oumarou Mamane Friday morning. In this meeting, which was also attended by some of the members of the Iranian delegation, Velayati, on behalf of Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, invited Niger's prime minister for a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In response, Oumarou Mamane said that he has enthusiastically followed the two countries mutual relations and despite the geographical distance between Niger and Iran, Niger's willingness for expanding its relations with the Islamic Republic was natural. Because, he added, the two countries are both Muslim and believe in the same God and the same prophet. He went on to say that Iran, through its revolution has proved to the world that the Islamic ideology could create a revolution.

Then Dr Velayati said that the reason for his visit to Niger was the Islamic Republic's Government's enthusiasm for strengthening its relation with the Islamic countries. Velayati and the accompanying delegation also separately met this morning with the ministers of foreign affairs, mining and industries and interior during which issues of the two countries, interests were discussed.

Meets With President, Departs

LD201155 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Niamey, Aug. 20, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Friday discussed expansion of bilateral relations between the Islamic Republic and Niger with the latter's President Seyni Kountche while presenting him a message from his Iranian counterpart Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. President Kountche, announcing his country's preparedness to dispatch cultural and religious delegations to Iran to further strengthen existing ties, condemned conspiracies of imperialism in harming Muslims' relations.

Velayati also referred to Iran's strategic situation and numerous plots thus threatening it such as the Iraqi imposed war which was neutralized with the devotion of Iranian people. Announcing Iran's willingness to boost its relations with the Third World countries, Velayati noted that the bulk of economic transactions of the Islamic Republic had increased to 25 percent from a previous percentage of nine.

Iranian foreign minister also stressed the Islamic Republic's supports for the African nation in their struggle against foreign domination. He extended an invitation to President Kountche to a pay a visit to Iran which was accepted. The Iranian delegation left Niamey for Freetown, Sierra Leone, this morning.

NIGERIA

Shagari Sends Message to Mengistu on Chad

AB231758 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] A special message from President Shehu Shagari on situations in Chad and Western Sahara has been received by the OAU chairman, Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia. It was delivered in Addis Ababa by the minister of external affairs, Professor Ishaya Audu.

In the message, President Shagari expressed great concern at the deteriorating situations in Chad and Western Sahara. It spoke of actions being taken by the Federal Government to help resolve the problems in line with the decisions taken at the reconvened 19th OAU summit in Addis Ababa last June.

Nigeria is a member of both the six-nation ad hoc committee and the 12-nation standing committee on Chad. Prof Ishaya Audu has since left the Ethiopian capital for home.

Kano NPN Expels Commerce Minister, Others

AB240940 Lagos NAN in English 0937 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] Lagos, 24 Aug, (NAN) — The Kano State branch of the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) has expelled the minister for commerce, Alhaji Bello Maitama Sule, the special assistant to the president on national assembly matters, Alhaji Tanko Yakasai and five others. Addressing a press conference yesterday, the state secretary of the party, Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu, said the others included Alhaji Muhammadu Adamu Dankabo, Alhaji Inuwa Tangaza, Alhaji Garaba Inuwa, Alhaji Garab Bichi and Alhaji Mahmud Gashash.

He said they were expelled because they connived and executed a conspiracy which led to the defeat of the NPN gubernatorial candidate, Alahji Aminu Bashir Wali. The secretary alleged that the expelled top notchers of the party leaked detailed NPN election strategy to the opposing parties in the gubernatorial election. Alhaji Bashir also alleged that they gave huge sum of money to the PRP [People's Redemption Party] and instructed their supporters to vote for the PRP candidate.

He said investigations would continue down to local government level, adding that any member of the party found guilty would be treated without fear or favor. The National Executive Committee of the party had been informed on the action taken and we are awaiting its ratification, he said.

Further Reportage on Senatorial Elections

Fedeco Announces More Results

AB231855 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Fedeco [Federal Electoral Commission] has released 18 more results of the senatorial elections. The five senatorial seats in Benue State were won by the NPN [National Party of Nigeria]. The candidates are Jacob Tilley Giado for Benue east central, Dr Ahmadu Ali for Benue west, and Mr Adejo Ogiri for Benue north central. Others are Godwin Okpe for Benue south central and Dr (Yarwuse Yahaker) for Benue east. In the Rivers State, (Dausie Loya Etete) was elected in the Brass Rivers 111 district on the platform of the NPN and in Imo State, Chief Francis Arthur Nzeribe of the NPP [Nigerian People's Party] was elected in the Orlu district.

Senator Garba Matta of the NPP was elected for the Panshin district of Plateau State, George Baba Homkwoop, NPP, was also re-elected for Plateau Shendam, while in Plateau Jos, Mark John Chollom of the NPN was elected. In the Plateau Keffi, the NPN candidate (Wale Jibrin) won the election while Ignatius Aboki was elected in the Plateau Lafia senatorial district under the NPP.

NPN Leads With 47 Seats

AB231440 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The National Party of Nigeria, NPN, is leading so far with 47 seats in the senatorial election held in 17 states of the federation. The Unity Party of Nigeria, UPN, has 12 seats, Nigeria People's Party, NPP, 11, People's Redemption Party, PRP, 5, and Great Nigeria People's Party, GNPP, 1. In Ahoada senatorial district of the Rivers State, Mr Victor (Sein Odili) of the NPN beat other contestants polling 240,586 votes. Two NPN senators were also elected in Kaduna State. They are Alhaji Abdulnasir for Daura/Mani/ Kankiya senatorial district and Alhaji Mamman Abubabar Danmusa for Kaduna/Dutsinma. The NPN candidate for Bori senatorial district, Dr (Taibo Setibo), also won the seat with 832,487 votes. In Bendel west senatorial district, Senator Nosike Ikpo was re-elected, this time on the platfrom of the NPN. The two results from the Cross River State are also in favor of the NPN.

Senate President Joseph Wayas was re-elected in the Ogoja senatorial district, having scored 400,412 votes. His closest contestant, Chief E. Ekpe of the UPN, made 37,168. Senator Joseph Ansa was re-elected in the Calabar senatorial district with 99,219 votes. Anambra Central senatorial district went to Professor S. (Ngbejofor) of the NPP while Mr Isaiah N. Ani also of the NPP was elected in the Anambra north senatorial district. Another NPP candidate, Dr Edwin (Onwdiwe), scored 148,364 votes to be elected in the Anambra West senatorial district. The results of Anambra south senatorial district shows that C. (Obenze) of the NPP as the winner with 102,467 votes.

Fedeco Announces Oyo, Ondo Elections Postponed

AB232145 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The Federal Electoral Commission, Fedeco, has issued a statement reminding the electorate that elections to the House of Representatives will take place in 17 states and the new federal capital territory on Saturday, the 27th of this month, as scheduled. In a statement, Fedeco said that its original plan to

hold senatorial elections in Oyo State on the 10th of next month had also been postponed indefinitely along with all other elections in Ondo State.

A Radio Nigeria political correspondent recalled that sometime last week Fedeco said it was cancelling all further elections in Ondo State because the commission's office along with all election materials there had been destroyed by fire. The Oyo State polls have been shelved because of the violence that erupted after the gubernatorial election.

Cross River NLC Says Strike To Continue

AB240835 Calabar Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The Cross River state council of the Nigerian Labor Congress [NLC] says the on-going industrial action by civil servants in the state will continue until sums are made available for the payment of arrears of salaries and allowances to the workers. A resolution to continue with the strike was adopted at an emergency meeting of representative of trade unions in the state held in Calabar yesterday to review developments in the strike action directed by the NLC. The meeting requested all civil servants in the state to continue with the strike which began late last week.

SIERRA LEONE

Iranian Foreign Minister Visits Country

Meets With Conteh

LD211214 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Freetown, Aug 21 IRNA — Common fields for cooperation between Iran and Sierra Leone and the ways to expand the existing bilateral ties were the topics of discussions between Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Sierra Leone officials.

In a meeting, Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Abdulai Conteh referring to common positions of the two countries in political and other world's issues including Palestine, Chad, and Afghanistan, expressed his country's desire for the expansion of cultural ties with Iran under the framework of Islam. Conteh said Dr Velayati's visit to his country will pave the way for the expansion of ties of the two countries.

Velayati, in reply, outlined political stance of the Islamic Republic which makes the provision of ties with the Third World. He also urged the Third World to unite and follow the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement which will prevent them from leaning towards East or West. Velayati said his country supports the verdicts of the Organisation of the African Unity (OAU) concerning the issues of Sahara, and Chad.

The Sierra Leone delegation, participated in talks with the Iranian delegation expressed the willingness of that country for expanding trade, and economic ties with Iran. Sierra Leone ministers of trade, energy, power, agriculture, forestry, and social security participated in the talks with Iranian delegation.

Velayati arrived here Saturday at the 6th [word indistinct] of his 11-nation Asia and Africa tour which earlier took him to the UAE, South Yemen, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Niger.

Signs Cultural Agreement, Departs

LD222031 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Excerpts] This morning Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of our country, accompanied by a high-ranking political, economic, and cultural delegation which is visiting a number of African countries left Sierra Leone for Tripoli, the Libyan capital, after a 2-day visit to Sierra Leone. During the visit they had meetings with the council of ministers [as heard] of that country and signed the draft of a cultural agreement between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Sierra Leone. Before leaving Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, the foreign minister of that country replied to the following questions.

In view of common interests between the two countries, including Islam, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference, what opportunities exist for cooperation between the two countries? He said: We are happy that the agreement on cultural relations between the two countries has been signed. In this agreement we have tried to include various issues, including the exchange of cultural information, periodicals, and books, so that the people of the two countries may get to know each other better. In economic fields there are also many possibilities for cooperation. Sierra Leone's foreign minister also said: The various goods that we receive from Iran are of vital importance to us. We also have some goods we can put at Iran's disposal. Concerning political cooperation Sierra Leone's foreign minister said: In political fields we can adopt harmonious policies and positions in the Islamic Conference and the Nonaligned Movement.

During the visit of the high-ranking delegation of our country to Sierra Leone, led by Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, a cultural agreement was signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries. The two sides have agreed on the expansion and strengthening of bilateral cultural relations, including: cultural contacts, the exchange of experience and information in various educational fields, the exchange of books, periodicals and films, close cooperation between universities and centers of higher learning, cooperation between news organizations, radio, television and press, the granting of scholarships for technical and vocational courses, cooperation in the fight against illiteracy through the exchange of information and experience and the dispatch of experts, the construction of mosques, Islamic philanthropic centers, and theological schools, the provision of books and teaching staff for these centers, and the dispatch of cultural representatives to two countries.

TOGO

President Receives Message From Sudanese Counterpart

AB232040 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] We remind you of the audience granted this morning by General Gnassingbe Eyadema, the founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally, to Mr Omar Mohammed Yasir, the roving ambassador at the president's office of Sudan. The Sudanese envoy came to deliver a message from President Ja'far Numayri to President Eyadema. The message concerns the prevailing situation in Chad. Let's listen, therefore, to Mr Yasir speaking to our reporter at the presidential palace.

[Begin recording in English fading into French translation] [Yasir] I thank the president of the Togolese Republic very much for seeing me. I arrived today and brought a message from my president, President Numayri, to his brother, Eyadema. The purpose of my visit is related to the situation in Chad. It concerns Libya's invasion of Chad. President Eyadema and President Numayri share the same viewpoints, because what is going on now is an aggressive act against a sovereign state and this must be stopped, for President Habre is a sovereign head of state of an independent country recognized by the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, and by the United Nations Organization. The legitimacy of his government is internationally recognized.

Also, when President Eyadema was leaving the Elysee Palace on 27 June 1983, he declared: Let all peace-loving countries go to the aid of Chad, which means that all countries that love peace, Sudan, and other (?interested) countries, can go to Chad's aid because it is a sovereign country and the victim of aggression.

If African countries do not form a united front and do not rise against this aggression, the situation may be repeated in another African country. And you must remember that when Goukouni was in power in Chad and was supported by Libya, Libyan fighter aircraft bombarded border villages between my country and Chad — Sudanese villages were bombarded. Finally, we are making an appeal to all African countries to rise up and block Libya's aggression in Chad. [end recording]

ANGOLA

AFP: UNITA Kills 11 Soldiers, Hits Soviet Aircraft

AB231235 Paris AFP in French 1152 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Lisbon, 23 Aug (AFP) — UNITA (armed opposition movement to the Luanda regime) has alleged that on 15 August 1983, it killed 11 government soldiers and a Portuguese priest during an attack against a convoy of military and civilian vehicles on the road between Lubango and Bengul (in the south of the country). In a communique reaching the Lisbon AFP office on Tuesday, Jonas Savimbi's movement said that it released two other Portuguese nationals in the convoy and destroyed seven military vehicles.

The communique also announced that on 10 August UNITA forces hit an Antonov aircraft in the Cangamba region, Moxico Province (in the east of the country) during an offensive carried out by government troops against the positions held by rebel forces. According to UNITA the damaged aircraft is now stationed on the runway of the airport of Menongue, the capital of the Kwando Kubango (in the south of Angola).

UNITA explained that the civilian vehicles in the military column were riding along in a war zone. "As long as the civil war lasts, such incidents will undoubtedly happen. Our struggle will continue until peace and stability is restored to Angola," the communique further said.

LESOTHO

Government, Perez de Cuellar Exchange Letters

MB231245 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Yesterday the Government of Lesotho received a letter from the secretary general of the United Nations, Mr Perez de Cuellar, on the situation here, reading as follows:

I have received your letter of 17 August 1983, and I am most concerned by your remarks relating to the situation prevailing between Lesotho and South Africa and the difficulties that have arisen from the presence of South African refugees in your country.

During the past week I have been in close contact with the UN high commissioner for refugees in order to identify measures which might be taken by the international community which would permit your government to meets its international obligations in regard to the refugees concerned and at the same time relieve the very difficult situation in which Lesotho finds itself as a result of the presence of these refugees in its territory. For his part the high commissioner has had discussions in Geneva with the representatives of a number of concerned governments and has appealed for their cooperation to reduce tension in your area and to ensure that the humanitarian character of the presence of refugees in Lesotho is fully respected. In so doing, the high commissioner has laid particular stress on the outstanding record as a safe haven for our refugees which your country has long maintained and its commitment to continue this fine humanitarian tradition, despite the difficulties and pressures which may be involved.

It is our understanding that the consent [as heard] of the Government of South Africa may be focused upon a limited number of refugees whose identity has not yet been clearly established. In this connection, the high commissioner is sending a senior officer to Lesotho to work out, in conjunction with officials of your government, appropriate solutions for these refugees, taking into account the special problems facing Lesotho as a result of their presence and also the present situation of the refugees themselves.

Needless to say, I, for my part, will continue to exercise my good offices with all concerned to promote a climate in which the difficulties currently being experienced by Lesotho can be resolved. In this connection I wish to inform you that I hope to have an opportunity of discussing these matters with the Government of South Africa. In accordance with your request, I have circulated your letter to all members states of the United Nations as a document of the Security Council.

In reply to the secretary general's letter the Government of Lesotho had this to say:

I wish to remind Your Excellency that in my message under reference I had drawn your attention to the incalculable suffering to Lesotho citizens and her economy as a result of South Africa's imposition of undue pressures. I also underscored the security situation that has been created by South Africa's refusal to release Lesotho's arms now at South African ports. We noted that South Africa categorically demands the return to her of African National Congress of South Africa refugees or for Lesotho to find a second place of refuge for them. I subsequently, under separate information, through the UN high commissioner for refugees, inform you that South Africa had demanded that 68 refugees be expelled from Lesotho, as they pose a security threat to her and supposedly were the cause of friction that had resulted in the imposition of the pressures on Lesotho.

It is noteworthy, Your Excellency, that out of a list of 68 men supplied by South Africa, without reasons being attached of how they threaten South Africa, 21 names are in Lesotho, whereas 21 long left Lesotho, and 26 never, ever were in Lesotho. It is inconceivable that South Africa could have twice within a matter of months taken such harsh measures without having prudently ascertained facts regarding the threat South Africa faces as a result of the presence of refugees in Lesotho. The disparity in numbers demanded as against the reality by itself shows that the measures taken are either unnecessary or a result of overreaction. Lesotho, therefore, can only come to the conclusion that South Africa is threatened by the presence of politically affiliated refugees in Lesotho. This list is sent to you under separate cover.

Lesotho is disturbed that its relations with South Africa will continuously be threatened by the presence of these refugees in Lesotho and that measures such as are now being taken against her shall be an intermittent feature unless the international community, through your good offices, puts restraint on South Africa regarding her demands for repatriation of these refugees

and her application of unjustified punitive measures against Lesotho.

Lesotho strongly wishes to note that she objects to a situation where a few refugees are from time to time picked by South Africa to be expelled while the country is under intermittent economic guillotine, particularly as South African demands are not accompanied by proven reasons to back their rationale.

The answer is either that Lesotho and the international community are satisfied by the allegations against the refugees in question or that the present basic cause of friction — the politically motivated refugees — be subject of Your Execellency's good offices regarding how best the international community can humanely consider their plight and ours.

As I have pointed in my previous note Lesotho is troubled by the position of principle regardless of the numbers, as numbers are irrelevant and out of context. Lesotho's position is that the refugees in question have abided by the conditions of their stay in Lesotho and South Africa has up to now failed to deduce the reasons to warrant their removal from Lesotho. I therefore, Excellency, feel that [word indistinct] the question of numbers prejudices Lesotho's position of principle based on fairness before Lesotho has been adequately heard.

We therefore trust, Your Excellency, that in your discussions with South Africa these points of principle shall be clarified, as Lesotho is anxious that the prolongation of the present situation regarding movement of her citizens and embargo on the arms be removed without delay.

MAURITIUS

Port Louis: Jugnauth, Alliance Win Elections

MB231004 Port Louis Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The MSM [Militant Socialist Movement]-Labor Party-PMSD [Mauritian Social Democrat Party] alliance won a landslide victory in the general elections, which were held in the country Sunday last. The alliance won 41 of the 60 [as heard] seats, against 19 to the MMM [Mauritian Militant Movement].

The leader of the MMM, Mr Paul Berenger, was himself defeated in his constituency at Belle Rose-Quatre Bornes. For the MMM the disaster is great, as the president and the secretary general of the party were also severely defeated in the elections. The result of the elections constitutes a personal victory for the prime minister, Mr Aneerood Jugnauth, who called the country to the polls after being deserted by 12 of his ministers, led by the ex-minister of finance and leader of the MMM, Mr Paul Berenger. That was exactly 5 months ago.

The deputy prime minister, Mr Harish Boodhoo, once the main architect of the alliance victory, managed to get elected in his constituency, as well as Sir Satcam Boolell, leader of the Labor Party; Sir Gaetan Duval, leader of the PMSD, and Kader Bhayat, deputy prime minister in the future government.

A total of 85.1 percent of the electorate voted in the general elections on Sunday. The MSM-Labor Party-PMSD alliance won 51.42 percent of the votes, and the MMM obtained 46 percent of the votes. In Rodrigues two candidates of the OPR [Rodrigan People's Organization] were elected (?by 4) percent of the electorate.

In a message to the nation yesterday night by the prime minister, Mr Aneerood Jugnauth, together with Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Mr Kader Bhayat, Mr Gaetan Duval, and Mr Harish Boodhoo, first of all thanked the voters for their faith in the victorious alliance. They also invited the opposition to play the role it has to play in democracy. He said that he hoped the opposition would be responsible and constructive. Announcing his major preoccupation for the days to come, the prime minister said that his team will first prepare the speech (?on the polls), call back parliament, (?vote the budget, and form) the composition of the new government.

MOZAMBIQUE

AFP: MRNM Kills 2 Soviet Miners, Captures 24

NC231648 Paris AFP in English 1534 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Lisbon, Aug. 23 (AFP) — Two Soviet miners have been killed and 24 others captured by the Rebel Mozambique National Resistance Movement [MRNM] in the northern Province of Zambezia, the Portuguese news agency ANOP reported today. The report, quoting Soviet sources in Maputo, the Mozambique capital, said that the action occurred on Sunday. Several Mozambique militiamen and civilians were killed at the same time, ANOP said. It said that the Soviet victims were working at the Morrua gem mines under a bilateral cooperation agreement.

Soviet Sources Confirm Deaths

AB240950 Paris AFP in French 0931 GMT 24 Aug 83

[Text] Maputo, 24 August (AFP) — Official Soviet diplomatic sources confirmed in Maputo on Wednesday that two Soviet technicians were killed and 24 others were kidnapped on Sunday in a mine in the Zambezia Province (in the center of the country) during an attack launched by the guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MRNM) supported by South Africa. It was specified that the attack was made on the mine of precious stones at Morrua in Gile Region 1,200 km northeast of Maputo. Several Mozambicans were reported to have been killed or kidnapped during the counterattack by the Mozambique Army.

It was recalled that at the beginning of this month, Mozambique President Samora Machel declared that the military situation in Zambezia Province was particularly preoccupying as MRNM guerrilla groups were attacking buses and trucks, thus hindering the delivery of food products. Samora Machel appointed a new military command for the province after severely criticizing the young officers sent to the region.

In August 1982, six Bulgarian technical assistant personnel were kidnapped by the MRNM in the same province and in similar conditions. They were freed shortly after during an operation by the Mozambique Army.

NAMIBIA

National Party Leader Hits Perez de Cuellar Visit

MB231621 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1500 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The leader of the National Party [NP] in Namibia, Kosie Pretorius, has emphasized the rights of whites to remain in the territory. Pretorius has criticized the visit of the UN secretary general to South Africa, saying, in his words, if strangers from across the water may come and trundle around here, then we Nationalists also have a right to be here. He was making a welcoming speech to delegates at the annual congress of the party. Pretorius has been re-elected as leader of the NP, which forms the majority party in the Legislative Assembly for whites in Namibia.

SOUTH AFRICA

UN Secretary General Arrives for Talks on Namibia

MB231031 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, says the aim of his South African visit is to implement the UN plan for South-West Africa as soon as possible by trying to resolve the few remaining issues which are preventing a settlement. Mr de Cuellar was speaking at D.F. Malan Airport near Cape Town after his arrival there late last night. Among those to welcome Mr de Cuellar at the airport was the minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, who said the secretary general would find that South Africa was ready to seek a peaceful solution based on Resolution No 435 of 1978. Both Mr Botha and Mr de Cuellar expressed the hope that the South-West African issue would be resolved as speedily as possible for the sake of peace in southern Africa. Mr de Cuellar made it clear that he was ready to return to South Africa in a continuing process of seeking agreement.

The first round of talks will take place when the two groups meet at Tuinhuis, the official residence of the state president, this morning. In the afternoon the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, will host luncheon in honor of Mr de Cuellar and his party, after which the negotiations will continue at Tuinhuis. Tonight the UN delegates will be the dinner guests of Mr Pik Botha, and the talks will continue tomorrow.

In addition to Mr de Cuellar, the United Nations delegation at today's talks will include the UN under secretary general for special political affairs, Mr Brian Lirquhart, and the secretary general's special representative for South-West Africa, Mr Martti Ahtisaari. On the South African side, Mr Pik Botha will be assisted by the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, and information, Mr Barend du Plessis, the director of the department, Mr Hans van Dolfsen, the South African ambassador to the United States, Dr Brand Fourie, and the South African permanent representative to the United Nations, Mr Kurt von Schirnding. The administrator-general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, will also be present.

On his way to South Africa, Mr de Cuellar stopped over in the Cape Verde Islands for talks with President Pereira. The Cape Verde Government has twice provided a venue for talks on South-West Africa and other matters between South Africa and Angola. Before leaving the Cape Verde Islands for South Africa, Mr de Cuellar told the newsmen that he would also have talks with the SWAPO leader, Sam Nujoma, in Angola at the week-end.

The secretary general will visit Windhoek on Thursday and leave for the Angolan capital, Luanda, on Friday. He has to give the Security Council a progress report by the end of this month and has expressed the hope that he will return to New York with positive results.

Luncheon Hosted

MB231220 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, is hosting a working luncheon at the Castle in Cape Town for the visiting UN delegation led by the secretary general, Dr Perez de Cuellar. The talks this morning between Dr de Cuellar and South African Government leaders were postponed until the lunch hour, as a result of the late arrival of the UN delegation last night.

Other South African dignitaries at the luncheon include the minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha; the minister of defense, General Malan; and the administrator-general of South-West Africa, Dr van Niekerk.

Talks Begin

MB231617 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Talks between the South African Government and the secretary general of the United Nations, Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, started with a working lunch in Cape Town today. Dr Perez de Cuellar and his party were welcomed at the historic Castle by the South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, before the official host, the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, arrived.

A liaison official of the UN delegation said that after the extended lunch the talks between Dr Perez de Cuellar, his aides, Mr Roelof Botha, and the South African minister of defense, General Malan, and their aides would continue in the South African state president's official residence, Tuinhuis.

It is hoped that the 2-day meeting will give a new impetus to settlement negotiations with South-West Africa/Namibia. Dr Perez de Cuellar will visit the capital of South-West Africa/

Namibia, Windhoek, on Thursday and go on to Luanda in Angola on Friday. Reports said that although no official agenda had been revealed, the items discussed would include matters such as the impartiality of the United Nations, the composition of its interim force to be deployed in the territory during the transition period leading to independence, and the electoral system that will be used in the elections. It is also assumed that the question of the withdrawal of Cuban troops from neighboring Angola would come up for discussion.

Talks Termed 'Positive'

MB231633 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1610 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Cape Town, Aug 23, SAPA — The talks between the United Nations secretary-general, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, and the South African Government seemed to have taken a definite and positive turn at Tuinhuis this afternoon. The talks were at such a sensitive stage shortly after 5pm that both parties agreed not to break for a scheduled press briefing on the day's negotiations.

"They cannot stop now," a spokesman for foreign affairs said when announcing the postponement to the large foreign and local press group which had gathered at the H.E. Verwoerd building. The briefing is expected to take place within the next hour when the negotiators must break for a dinner engagement.

2d Round of Talks Held

MB231835 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] The UN delegation headed by the secretary general, Dr Perez de Cuellar, is attending a dinner being given in Cape Town by the minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, after today's two rounds of talks on South-West Africa. This afternoon the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, was the host at a working luncheon at the Castle. Among the other guests were the minister of defense, General Malan; Mr Pik Botha; and the administrator-general of South-West Africa, Dr van Niekerk.

The talks between the UN delegation and South African Government leaders scheduled for this morning were postponed because of Dr de Cuellar's late arrival in Cape Town last night. This afternoon's talks, which lasted about 3 hours, have been described by a spokesman for the secretary general, Mr Francois Guiliani, as businesslike and frank. Further talks are to be held at the state president's residence, Tuinhuis, tomorrow.

Perez de Cuellar Comments on Talks

MB231845 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1822 GMT 23 Aug 83

[Text] Cape Town, Aug 23, SAPA — The United Nations secretary-general, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, tonight described his talks with the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, as a "talking competition not unlike a friendly soccer match." He was in a relaxed mood after nearly six hours of negotiations with the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and Mr Pik Botha when he briefly joined a press reception at Cape Town's Mount Nelson Hotel.

He described today's talks as "most pleasant" and said he had enjoyed a tour of the peninsula mountains before the talks began. "I would prefer to come back here as a tourist," he said, when asked whether he would like to return for further negotiations on the SWA/Namibian independence question.

In answer to a further question as to whether he would like to arrange a return via Cape Town to an independent Namibia he said: "Let's be optimistic, it is not entirely ruled out." Mr Perez de Cuellar, who was asked whether the talks had been difficult replied: "We have earned our salaries."

He would not say directly who had done the major portion of the talking but said the discussions between him and South Africa's minister of foreign affairs had been "like a friendly soccer match." A questioner asked whether it was not more like a rugby match. "Yes, but with soccer one needs a little more finesse," the secretary-general said.